

PASSING EVENTS

AT HOME AND ABROAD.

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REPUBLICAN SPAIN.

A REPUBLIC in Spain! Hardly likely to prove a durable one though, for the Tree of Liberty is not the plant to flourish upon the soil in which such excrescences as the Holy Inquisition grew so long and so luxuriantly. Liberty is a hardy plant, and will thrive amidst even the Alpine snows of Switzerland; but the pestilent exhalations of bigotry, superstition, and indolence, that reek upwards from the Iberian soil must prove too much for it. To carry out the metaphor, the manure of education must be plentifully applied to the Spanish people before it can hope to take root in their hearts. It is a gift they cannot appreciate at its just value, and are therefore much better without.

There are too many woodmen, too, already whetting their axes. Carlists, Montpensierists, and Alphonists, are all gathering like vultures at the scent of the carnage, all preparing to swoop down and batten upon the vitals of the unhappy land that gave them birth, all equally prepared to see Spain turned into a harried desert from the Pyrenees to the Rock of Gibraltar rather than abate one jot of their claims or relax one tittle of their efforts. There are priests innumerable ready to sell their powerful services to the highest bidder — an army whose treachery and venality is proverbial, and in its ranks scores of embryo Prims, prepared to act the part of Monk, Cromwell, Napoleon, or Judas, according as the occasion may present itself and their interest require.

Race, too, is against the formation of a Republic. Southern nations aspire to a Republican form of government, France exists under one, and had Italy been freed by Mazzini, instead of Cavour, she would have been ruled as in the early Roman days. But in Spain a Gothic wave has swept over the original Celts, and veneration for monarchy is a distinguishing feature of the Northern race. In England a similarly mixed population exists: is there any hope for Spain from analogy? Would a Government like our own, combining as it does the freedom of Republicanism,



AMADEUS,
EX-KING OF SPAIN.

with the externals of Monarchy suit her? The experiment has failed this time through the jealousy and intrigues of political parties. Had the country been educated to the standard required by the nineteenth century, the result might have been different.

Meanwhile the Republic is doing its best to alienate many who might prove useful supporters. The Spaniard is essentially Conservative, and, however much he may profit by political changes, revolts in his heart at social ones. And this fact the individuals at the head of the Government seem, in their red hot enthusiasm, to have overlooked. They have abolished the Royal Guard. Proper, perhaps, but scarcely prudent; for by this act they disgust the officers, who delighted in their brilliant uniform, and the veterans who in its ranks enjoyed sundry little privileges dear to the soldier. Titles and decorations are likewise decreed away with. The loss of the first is the bitterest of wrongs to a nobility so excessively proud as that of Spain, whilst those aware how dear the second are to the Continental mind, can imagine how their abolition will be felt by the high "bourgeoisie,"—that middle class, unhappily too few in number in Spain, whose influence is ever the most valuable to a Government. Moreover, they have committed the folly of altering the national flag. The lions and towers that championed Christendom against the Moors, and the broads stripes of red and gold that once flamed supreme over the seas of the Western world, are to be replaced by a tricolour, that eternal Republican tricolour of violet, red; and white, one of the most inartistic combinations of colour ever heard of.

How, then, is it to end? How long are the batch of deputies who from their benches in Madrid pretend to govern the whole of Spain to carry on their farce. With the Carlists, encouraged by the advent of their chief, gathering like wolves amidst the mountains of the North, with the democracy of Catalonia demanding a federation, and the peasants of Andalusia agitating for the principles of the Commune

and the redistribution of lauded property, with a hostile clergy busy in their machinations in favour of a return to bigotry and superstition, and an army in which no trust can be placed; that position can scarcely be called an enviable or a tenable one. There is but little doubt that before the coming month is out the streets of Madrid will have been flecked with the blood of her citizens, and the men who at present pretend to rule the destinies of the Iberian peninsula will be scattered fugitives.

To prophesy the Government that succeeds there is not our province. With so many parties in face, and so many interests at stake, the most accurate calculation as to the respective chance of each is sure to be upset by some unforeseen contingency. The future of Spain is one that seems almost too painful to contemplate. But one thing is certain, that her claim to the title of "Republican" will be but a transient one.

IN PARLIAMENT.

LAST week, on Wednesday, the House of Commons was occupied in discussing the Bill for Legalizing Marriage with a Deceased Wife's Sister, the second reading of which was carried by 126 to 57.

On Thursday, in the House of Lords, the LORD CHANCELLOR brought forward his scheme for the formation of a Supreme Court of Judicature. He proposed to unite into one Supreme Court of Judicature all the present Superior Courts of Common Law and Equity, and also the Probate and Divorce Court, the Admiralty Court, and the Central Bankruptcy Court, to be divided into a High Court of Justice for the exercise of original jurisdiction and a Court to hear appeals from the inferior Courts. The High Court would consist of twenty-one Judges, those Judges being the present Judges of the Courts of Common Law, the present Vice-Chancellor, the present Master of the Rolls, and the Judges of the Probate and Admiralty Courts. With regard to the Appellate jurisdiction, he did not propose to deal with appeals from Scotland or Ireland, but to constitute for England a Court of the greatest authority, whose decisions should be final. He proposed that this Court should consist of five *ex officio* members, namely, the Lord Chancellor (the Lord Chief) and the heads of the four divisions of the High Court of original jurisdiction—that was to say, the Lord Chief Justice, the Master of the Rolls, the Chief Justice of the Common Pleas, and the Lord Chief Baron. In addition to these there would be nine ordinary Judges.

LORD CAIRNS generally approved of the plan; and, after some remarks from Lord Carnarvon and Lord Redesdale, the Bill was read a first time.

In the House of Commons, MR. MUNDRELL gave notice that on an early day he would move for a select committee to inquire into the causes of the present scarcity and dearness of coal.

MR. CHICHESTER FORTESCUE, in reply to a question from Mr. Bentinek, said he did not think much more could be done in the way of preventing collisions. A danger signal was an important matter, and the Board of Trade had long been considering what such a signal should be. He was now in a position to propose some legislation on the subject, and he had some reason to believe that other countries would agree to his proposal.

The House having gone into committee, MR. GLADSTONE rose to explain the Government measure on University Education in Ireland. He stated that it would be proposed to incorporate with Trinity College, in an enlarged and remodelled University of Dublin, the Queen's Colleges of Belfast and Cork, but not of Galway, which it was suggested should be suppressed; the present Roman Catholic University, as it was called, in Dublin; and the McGee College. The governing body would at first be nominated by the Crown, and afterwards by the governing body itself, the professors, and the incorporated colleges. In order to avoid religious disputes, there would be no chairs of Theology, Divinity, and Modern History. He then entered into minute financial details, showing that Trinity College would have to give up a fourth of its revenues to the University, and that the funds necessary for the foundation of professorships and other endowments would be supplied from the surplus ecclesiastical property of Ireland. The right hon. gentleman, having spoken three hours, moved for leave to sit in the Chair of Divinity.

After a brief discussion leave was given.

Nothing of importance transpired in the House of Lords on Friday.

In the House of Commons, SIR C. DILKE gave notice that this month he would move a resolution in favour of a more equal distribution of political power.—MR. SINCLAIR AYTOUX asked the Government what was their object in maintaining at Rome an envoy to the Pope, and what were his instructions?—LORD ESKFIELD stated that Mr. Clarke Jervoise was not an envoy; he was not accredited, and had no instructions. He was simply a clerk from the Foreign Office, performing duties which might cease at any moment. On a division, Mr. Aytoux's motion was negatived by 116 to 63.—MR. RYLANDS moved a resolution declaring that the French Commercial Treaty, and all future treaties, ought to be laid before both Houses of Parliament prior to ratification. He argued that there was no longer any Royal prerogative as to the making of treaties, which was a matter entirely under the control of the Government. After some discussion the subject dropped, the forms of the House not permitting the motion to be put.—MR. NEWDEGATE obtained leave to introduce a Bill for appointing commissioners to inquire respecting Monastic and Conventual Institutions in Great Britain.

LORD CAIRNS, in the House of Peers on Monday, drew attention to the sufferings experienced by British emigrants on their arrival in Brazil and other States of South America; and LORD GRANVILLE stated, in reply, that whatever could be done had been done to warn intending emigrants of the deceptive character of the representations made to them on behalf of foreign States.

In the House of Commons, the Attorney-General brought forward for second reading his Bill—altered from that of last year by the counsels of a select committee—for reducing the numbers of juries and altering the conditions on which they serve. MR. STAVELEY HILL, MR. M. CHAMBERS, and MR. HENRY JAMES took part in the debate—the last honourable member strongly declaring that the opinion of the bar was in favour of retaining the number twelve as that of the jury. In the end the second reading was carried. The other business of the sitting was of a miscellaneous character.

In the House of Lords, on Tuesday, the Bill for the regulation of railways, introduced by Lord Buckhurst, was read a second time, and referred to a select committee.

In the Commons, MR. VERNON HARCOURT brought forward a motion, which was seconded by Mr. Jacob Bright, declaring that the rate of public expenditure is excessive, and ought to be reduced. Mr. Gladstone, after expounding some of the chief causes of the augmented outlay of the State, cordially welcomed an inquiry by a Committee of the House, and promised the fullest co-operation on the part of the Ministry. After several other speeches, mostly from the Liberal benches, the House assented to a motion for inquiry—restricted, however, to the cost of the Civil Service.

At the Wednesday morning sitting of the House of Commons, the second reading of the Married Woman's Property Act was carried after a lengthy debate by 124 to 103 votes. The Agricultural Children Bill was also read a second time, and the Epping Forest Bill was passed.

POLITICAL.

There are now 63 Bills before the House of Commons, of which 11 are Government measures.

ALL the railway Amalgamation Bills of the current session are to be referred to a select committee, to be composed of members of both Houses of Parliament.

MR. WILLIAM GORDON, of Leinster-terrace, Hyde-park, and Old Broad-street, has consented to stand in the Conservative interest at the next election for the borough of Chelsea.

MR. PETER TAYLOR's Bill for the opening of museums on Sundays is fixed for discussion on the 4th March. We fear, however, that it is hardly likely to be reached on that day, owing to the number of measures which will come on before it.

FOR the seat to be vacated by the Hon. Auberon Herbert at the general election, Mr. Saul Isaac, colliery proprietor, of Colwick Hall, has consented to stand in the Conservative or Independent interest. Mr. Charles Seely, jun., the present member, will most likely seek re-election.

IT is stated that the Conservatives in East Derbyshire have chosen Mr. William Fowler, managing director of the Sheep-bridge Coal and Iron Company, and Mr. Frank Arkwright, of Warwickshire, to contest the division at the next election.

MR. LAYARD, our minister at Madrid, was for some strange reason one of the original advocates, and has always been one of the greatest supporters, of Amadeus as a monarch for Spain. He has all through acted as a friendly adviser to the Italian Prince, and is very anxious to change his post now that his *protégé* has abandoned the throne.

THE Government have given notice of a Bill to Assimilate Parliamentary and Municipal Registers; that is, to pass a part of the Registration Bill, which Mr. Vernon Harcourt, Mr. Rathbone, and Sir Charles Dilke unsuccessfully introduced last year; but the present Ministerial measure does not touch the lodger registration question, which is exactly the section in last year's Bill which its promoters were most anxious to pass.

THE election for Lisburn took place on Monday, when Sir Richard Wallace was returned without opposition. Mr. John Rea, solicitor, of Belfast, endeavoured to get a nomination, but did not succeed. He made several speeches to the mob, who carried him on their shoulders through the town, and afterwards put him on a cart, which they pulled through the streets so rapidly that in one case it went over a boy, breaking his legs. Sir Richard Wallace was enthusiastically cheered.

THE House of Commons sits just six months in the year; and, as no one has ever suggested the abolition of the Long Vacation in its case, we may assume that it will still continue to sit just six months in the year, and no more. The Easter and Whitsuntide holidays may be deducted from this period, and they amount together to nearly a month. The Wednesday afternoon sittings must be deducted also from the time given up to productive business. We do not wish to cast any slur on those sittings; they are of the highest value as meetings for the discussion of future legislation, but they are not available for the work of the session, and on this account, and on this account only, we put them aside. There remain four working days for five months of the year, and it requires very little calculation to see that in this way barely ninety days are secured. Putting aside, for the moment, the morning sittings which are held towards the end of the session, only half of these days are at the disposal of the Government, which has, therefore, about forty-five days regularly assigned to it for the despatch of its work. The insufficiency of this time for the work to be done is manifest.

AMONG those present at a large meeting held in the Library of Lambeth Palace, under the presidency of the Archbishop of Canterbury, to "inaugurate" the Church of England Temperance Society, were the Bishop of Ely, the Bishop of Lichfield, the Rev. Lord W. Russell, Sir Harcourt Johnstone, M.P., Mr. Hugh Birley, M.P., the Rev. Archdeacon Sandford, Dean Stanley, the Rev. Robert Maguire, the Rev. A. J. Ellison, and the Rev. Mr. Herring. The Archbishop, in opening the proceedings, said it might be asked why there should be a Church of England Temperance Society, for temperance could be preached by all denominations; but there were good reasons why the Church should take up a work like this. The Church in England, and had, thank God, as yet, and he hoped for centuries to come would have, an educated man, an accredited man, resident in every community, with great advantages for gathering his people around him, and for organizing them in any purpose which would serve the good of the kingdom of Christ. This was not a spirit or desire to separate themselves from others that this movement had been commenced, but because it was thought that in our National Church the clergy had the best possible means of advancing a good national work. Resolutions approving of the constitution of the Society, and of the action of Convocation in the matter, were adopted, and it was resolved to raise a guarantee fund of £10,000 for five years to carry out the objects of the meeting.

MADAME TUSSEAUD'S EXHIBITION.—A portrait model of his late Imperial Majesty NAPOLEON III., lying in state is now added. Napoleon reposes. "The most remarkable thing in the museum," says M. de Cassagne, "is the grand physiognomy of Napoleon I." Everything connected with him has been collected with admirable care.—Admission 1s. Children under ten, 6d. Extra rooms, 6d. Open from 10 a.m. till 10 p.m.—(ADVT.)

PERSONAL.

THE Sultan is still indisposed.

STOKES, the assassin of James Fisk, has been refused a new trial.

GARIBOLDI has written to a friend in England to say that his health is improving.

HERN JOACHIM, the celebrated violinist, has received the order of the Red Eagle from the Emperor of Germany.

LORD DUFFERIN, the new Governor-General of Canada, is immensely popular among the Canadians.

MR. EDMUND YATES has been appointed correspondent of the *New York Herald* for the Vienna Exhibition.

SERGEANT BATES, he has been proposed, should carry the beloved banner "through the centre of Africa."

BARON CHANNELL and Mr. Justice Byles have been appointed members of Her Majesty's Privy Council.

THE Count and Countess of Flanders will visit Rome during the Carnival, and remain for some time.

LIVINGSTONE is reported from Zanzibar to have left Ujiji in good health for the fountains of the Nile in August last.

THE Japanese Ambassadors have arrived at Brussels, and had an audience of their Majesties the King and Queen.

HER MAJESTY THE QUEEN has returned to Windsor Castle from the Isle of Wight.

COUNT BERNSTORFF, the Prussian Ambassador, is seriously ill. He is suffering from ascites, due to the state of the liver.

MR. T. HUGHES, M.P., has been appointed the successor of the late Professor Maurice in the principality of the Working Men's College.

COUNT MAFFEI DI BOGLIO, the Secretary of the Italian Legation in London, has been ordered to Madrid as Chargé d'Affaires for Italy.

COUNT BERNSTORFF's health, which at the close of last week was regarded with somewhat grave anticipations, does not improve.

MR. WHALLEY, M.P., has received an address expressive of sympathy and confidence from a portion of his constituents at Peterborough.

M. GAMBETTA has announced his intention of making a political excursion into the north of France during the Easter recess.

MADAME MILLIÈRE has announced her intention of suing Captain Garçon for 150,000 francs, for the wrongful execution of her husband during the Commune.

MR. MAY, gunner of the turret-ship *Glutton*, and the only officer saved from the turret-ship *Captain*, is about publishing a history of that vessel from the cradle to the grave.

MR. THIENS appeared on last Wednesday week in the Assembly for the first time since the question has been raised about his right to speak.

MR. FRANK IVES SCUDAMORE, of the Telegraphy Department in the General Post Office, is to be entertained to a public dinner at Edinburgh next month.

MR. LOWE has left the country with nothing but florins. Change is always given in two-shilling pieces as far as possible; shillings, sixpences, and half-crowns are curiosities.

REAR-ADMIRAL SIR W. KING HALL will vacate the superintendence of Devonshire Dockyard, to which Lord John Hay will probably succeed.

MR. JUSTICE DENMAN has declined a knighthood, his birth as a peer's son giving him superior social rank to a knight.

LORD HATHERLEY is understood to be progressing extremely well, and there is every reason to hope for the restoration of his sight.

GENERAL UHRICH, who commanded at Strasburg during the late war, has asked permission to retire from the French service. The gallant general is 71 years of age, has been 53 years in the service, and taken part in 16 campaigns.

MEHMET RUSHDI PACHA has been appointed Minister of Finance; HUSSIAN PACHA, Minister of War; RIZA PACHA, Minister of Marine; and ISMAIL, Minister of Public Works in Turkey.

THE Akhond of Swat, finding some difficulty in raising the troops he wants, has resorted to anathematizing his people. His curses upon those who refuse to enlist are described as terrible.

THE QUEEN has ordered a sarcophagus and pedestal of Peterhead granite, in which the remains of the late Emperor Napoleon may be placed until their ultimate destination is determined.

GENERAL CHANGARNIER has had a narrow escape from death. Stepping out of a carriage on his return from Versailles, while the train was still in motion, the veteran deputy fell on the rails, but by the prompt aid of an official he was rescued unhurt.

MISS BETTY MARIA CAROLINE PETTERSON is the first female student who has been inscribed on the books of the University of Upsal in Sweden. The young lady has obtained authorization to pass her thesis in philosophy, but she has been told that she must not aspire to the rectorship of Alma Mater.

MR. HOLMSTEAD, the relieving-officer of St. Olave's, in Southwark, whose conduct was gravely called in question with regard to his treatment of the Simpsons, has not escaped so easily from the hands of the Local Government Board as he did from those of the Guardians. The Board, having held an official inquiry into the whole affair, has addressed to Mr. Holmstead a sharp and detailed letter of censure on his behaviour.

THE following was taken down in a Scotch church by Mr. Cobden, who handed it to a Roman friend for his delectation (in 1856):—"Lord, we thank Thee that Thou hast brought the Pope into trouble, and we pray that Thou wouldst be mercifully pleased to increase the same."

THE "blood and iron" phrase by which Bismarck is best known appears in a speech made by him in 1862 to the Chamber, in which he observed: "Not through speeches and votes of the majority are the great questions of the day to be decided—that was the blunder of 1848 and 1849—but by 'iron and blood.'"

AT HOME.

A NEW fish-market has been opened at Manchester. Its cost has been about 50,000.

THERE is an energetic movement in the West of England with a view of securing the holding of this year's autumn manoeuvres on Dartmoor.

The prizes won by the Volunteers at Ghent last autumn have arrived, and a public distribution will shortly take place.

The parish church of Gildersome, near Leeds, has been completely destroyed by fire, no property being saved except a few books.

WHITECLIFF BAY, Isle of Wight, is likely to become a place of some importance from the fact of large deposits of coal having been found there within the last few days.

BRIGHTON had a town's meeting on Monday night, at which a resolution protesting against the continued imposition of the income-tax was passed.

A COLLIER explosion occurred at noon on Monday at the Treacherbone Pit, Kearsley, near Bolton. Two men were preparing a shot, when it exploded, and both were seriously injured.

A LAMENTABLE accident is reported from the vicinity of Dumfries, where, on Sunday afternoon, six children were drowned, one of them through the treacherous state of the ice, and the rest in a vain attempt to save their little comrade.

The Belfast Town Council have formally expressed regret that there was no allusion to Her Majesty's Speech to a matter of such national interest in Ireland as the purchase of the railways by the State.

The Sunday school teachers who belong to the United Kingdom Band of Hope Union met in Exeter Hall on Wednesday night. The chair was taken by Mr. F. N. Charrington, who was at one time a partner in the brewing firm of that name, but now an advocate of total abstinence.

A NOVEL race lately took place at Bath. Two men wagered £5 aside on the following contest:—One competitor to be rolled down a steep hill, a distance of 80 feet, while the other ran three-quarters of a mile. The pedestrian was defeated by two minutes.

A WRIT of *habeas corpus* has been received by Mr. Trotter, magistrates' clerk, Bishop Auckland, for the removal of Mary Ann Cottam from Durham Gaol, for examination at Bishop Auckland, on the charge of poisoning her stepson and her infant child at West Auckland.

IN the provinces the working men are raising the amount of the fine imposed on Mr. Skipworth, for contempt of Court, in the matter of the Claimant. The principal sums have been promised from Bradford, Leeds, Birmingham, and Lincoln.

LAST Saturday morning a frightful accident happened to Mr. Henry William Torpey, of Fulham. It appeared that he was riding a spirited horse in Piccadilly, when the animal shied, and pitched the sufferer on a heap of granite stones, fracturing his skull in a fearful manner.

IN Bath the other day, an Irishman went to the house of the mother of his child with the avowed purpose of "smashing" up the whole family. He attacked the girl and her father and mother very savagely with a poker. All three of them had to be removed to the hospital.

The friends of the French Hospital and Dispensary dined together on Saturday last at Willis's Rooms. Comte d'Harcourt, who presided, gave the loyal toasts and "The British Army and Navy" with all the fervour of a native Briton, and the company drank them with thoroughly English cheers.

THE Artisans', Labourers', and General Dwellings Company are about to plant a suburban colony on the Shaftesbury-park estate, Wandsworth-road. Besides school-rooms, baths, and wash-houses, it will be furnished with a lecture-hall and co-operative store. Six hundred applications have already been received for houses.

A LITTLE girl living in Eagle-street, Holborn, was playing with some boys in the door of an adjoining house, when they obtained a rope, and, putting it round her neck, dragged her along the pavement, cutting her head in a most frightful manner. She was removed to King's College Hospital, where she remains in a precarious state.

The schooner *Tweed* has been seized by the Customs' authorities of Wexford, on suspicion of having run into the barque *Edward Bassett*, while at anchor off the Blackwater bank, carrying away the bowsprit, foremast, &c., and then bearing away to sea without attempting to render assistance.

IN many parts of the metropolis the high price of coals is being severely felt by the labouring poor, the various parochial bodies being unable to offer any assistance in the supply of fuel; and it is feared that unless a lowering of prices speedily takes place, there will be a great increase of mortality among children and aged people.

At a meeting of Post-office employees, held at Albion Hall, London-wall, on Monday night, a petition to Parliament was adopted, praying, on behalf of themselves and their fellows generally throughout the country, for an increase of wages. They justify this step by stating that their appeals addressed to other quarters have been disregarded.

THE strike of the Tyne tug-owners continuing, strong opposition is being shown by the shipowners of Shields. Special meetings of the South Shields Chamber of Commerce and the Shipowners' Association have been held, when it was unanimously resolved that they would not agree to the advance of charges, but would consent to arbitration of the question if the tugs would start at the present rate.

A FATAL railway accident occurred on the 14th inst., on an elderly man at the level crossing at the Leytonstone Station on the Great Eastern Railway. It appears that the man had been employed in cutting a hedge belonging to a gentleman's grounds adjoining the railway, and was returning to his work after breakfast, and in crossing the line was knocked down by an engine of a down train, and shockingly mutilated.

DURING the late gales the sea has gained so much upon the Ness Point, Lowestoft, that the foundations of the lower lighthouse have been broken up and shattered as if by gunpowder. Workmen are engaged preparing to remove the structure 100 yards further inland. The lighthouse stands on iron pillars, and will probably be removed entire, so that the light will continue to perform its function as heretofore.

By a resolution of the Senate of London University, Greek is rendered no longer compulsory for matriculation. Either French or German may be substituted for the classical language.

A LARGE open-air meeting of women was held at Notting-ham on Tuesday, to consider the high price of coal. A resolution denouncing the inhumanity of coal-owners was passed, and it was also decided to hold a torchlight meeting in the great market-place, and walk from thence through the streets in procession, carrying an empty fire-grate.

The colliers of the South Wales pits in which Mr. Brogden, M.P., is interested, have resumed work on the basis of a compromise by which the men, for a short period, accept half the reduction against which they struck—namely, five per cent.—with a prospect of soon obtaining increased pay, on the condition that the output of coal is on a more reasonable scale than it has been of late.

UNPLEASANT news for the Metropolitan and Home Counties Volunteers is conveyed in the result of Monday's meeting of commanding officers held, under Lord Elcho's presidency, at the offices of the National Rifle Association. It was resolved by the meeting, that from various considerations—including the increase of railway rates, and the silence of the War Secretary—it was not desirable to ask permission to hold a review on Easter Monday next.

MR. BRUCE received on Saturday last a deputation of Licensed Victuallers, who complained of the inconveniences imposed by the Act of last year, with regard to inspection and the hours of closing. While recognizing the fairness with which the trade had stated their case, the right hon. gentleman said the Government did not at present think of introducing an amended Act, the public being apparently satisfied with the restrictions now imposed.

COCKADES in the hats of servants are badges, distinctly implying that the wearers are in the service of persons connected with the military or naval defence of the country. There is no written law to prevent display-loving civilians aping the country's defenders, but Mr. Lowe might easily turn the aspiration to national account. By imposing a tax on cockades worn by the lackeys of civilians the revenue would be very materially increased.

AT about four o'clock on Wednesday afternoon an accident of a very serious character occurred on the river. It appears that a steamer, when near Temple-pier, was run into by a colvich boat, the force of the collision driving the former against the embankment on the Surrey side. The captain of the injured boat attempted to steam across to the opposite side of the river, and then run ashore; but the steamer, filling rapidly, sank before he could reach it. Fortunately, no lives were lost, the passengers being rescued by a passing steamer.

ADMIRAL ROPS has written a letter to the Earl of Rosebery with reference to his approaching motion in the House of Lords on the scarcity of horses in England. He points out that with the present price of beef and mutton no farmer occupying grass lands can speculate with advantage in rearing horses when he can get 45s. for his lambs. He adds:—"The practical cause of a scarcity of horses is a redundancy of wealth. The practical remedy—put the same tax on race-horses as on other horses of luxury, and then pray leave us alone."

ON Saturday last, Dr. Lankester held an inquest on the body of James Harris, aged 14. The deceased was an engine-cleaner at the Paddington Station of the Great Western Railway. Feeling very cold, he got into the furnace of an empty or "dead" engine to keep himself warm while he waited for a fellow-cleaner. He fell asleep, and a lighter, to get up steam, put some red-hot coals in the furnace. The clothes of the deceased caught fire, burning him so severely that he died shortly afterwards. A verdict of "Accidental Death" was returned.

CONSIDERABLE sensation has been caused in Walworth by the discovery, on Monday evening, of a number of dead bodies of children in a disused dead-house attached to the former burying-ground of St. Peter's Church. A police-constable, who lives in the vicinity, happened to go into the burying-ground in search of a missing fowl, and while so engaged he found, partly covered with timber and stones, six small coffins, each containing the body of a child in a high state of decomposition.

LAST Saturday evening an extraordinary accident occurred at the Birmingham Theatre Royal. The gallery was well filled, and the performance was about to commence, when a boy named Thomas Wilmet, fourteen years of age, rushed over the heads of the people to join a friend in the first seat. From some unexplained cause, he rolled over the barrier, and fell into the pit, a distance of about thirty feet. When taken up, it was thought he was not seriously injured, but he died in the Queen's Hospital a few hours later. The persons in the pit on whom he fell appear to have sustained no particular injury beyond the severe shock.

MR. BEDFORD has held an inquest at St. George's Hospital respecting the death of Mary Gentry, aged 40, an inmate of one of the wards of the hospital. On the morning of the 13th inst. How, one of the nurses, found that she had given the deceased carbolic acid instead of senna. Attempts were made to arrest the action of the poison, but to no purpose. The bottle containing the carbolic acid was generally put at the bottom inadvertently left at the top for a few moments by another nurse. The jury returned a verdict exonerating the nurse from blame, but strongly censuring the hospital authorities.

A SERGEANT of the Royal Artillery committed suicide in a desperate and public manner at Woolwich last Saturday night. He had been under arrest for intemperance, but broke out of barracks about six o'clock in the evening, and went to the bar of the "King's Arms" Hotel, being at the time apparently sober. After some time he went out and purchased a cyanide of potassium at two chemist's shops, alleging that he wanted it, as soldiers often do, for cleaning gold lace, and returned to the "King's Arms." There he called for a glass of whisky and water, was seen to mix something with it, and then drank off the liquid, falling down dead in front of the bar, and in the presence of a great many persons who were there assembled.

A GENTLEMAN (he has much leisure) has been making calculations as to the period when the three "expanding Empires"—Britain, Russia, and America—will, at their present rate of progress, subvert the whole world. The estimate must have been difficult, for the voracity of these three territory eaters varies very much. Sometimes only a few thousand

square miles are taken within a year; in other years of appetite whole countries are disposed of at a bolt. However, the gentleman thinks that everything will be settled by about the year 1930. This calculation is based upon the average of the last ten years, during which time it appears Russia has annexed some 700,000 square miles! A doubt, however, is expressed, and very properly, as to whether Germany can be comfortably got down by 1930. Likewise there is another point that seems to have been left out of the calculation. To all appearance some of the three Empires will, at no distant date, be at work upon the possessions of each other.

ON Friday afternoon, the 14th inst., a fearful fire broke out on the premises of Messrs. Rishston, Copper, and Dunderdale, spice, seed, and rice merchants, Fleet-street, Liverpool, which in about two hours destroyed the whole of the very extensive premises, only a portion of the front wall being left standing. Work was in full operation at the time of the breaking out of the fire, and seven women were engaged in the parcel packing-room. On the alarm being given two of the women and a man escaped by a staircase from the building; but five women engaged with them, in their terror and excitement, rushed towards the general packing-room, and in their frantic efforts to escape were suffocated by the smoke, and afterwards their bodies were completely charred, being quite unrecognizable when recovered. The fire was so rapid that in half an hour the roof fell in, and the whole of the premises, extending about thirty-five yards in frontage, were completely gutted within about two hours.

ON Tuesday afternoon a fearful explosion, resulting in serious loss of life, took place in the colliery known as Falk-o'-the-Hill, a pit situated about four miles from Tunstall, and one mile from Harecastle Station. The scene of the present disaster is one that is already well known in the annals of colliery catastrophes. It appears that the present explosion occurred in the 8-ft. seam, where between thirty and forty men were working at the time. What caused it has not yet been ascertained. There is a conjecture, however, that the firing of a shot was the destructive agent. None of the unfortunate miners escaped, and no hope is felt that any one of them will be brought out of the pit alive. Efforts have been made to recover the bodies, but without the slightest success. It appears, indeed, to have been quite impossible to get to the workings, the roadways and supports having been destroyed by the explosion, and blocked the passage. A portion of the roof of the fire in consequence of the explosion, and only with difficulty, and after the lapse of considerable time, were the flames extinguished.

ONE of the most disorderly meetings that have taken place in Banbury for some years occurred on Thursday evening, the 13th inst., when William Stanton, a returned emigrant from Canahe, Brazil, delivered a lecture on the hardships and privations through which the emigrants had to pass. After describing the harsh way in which they were treated, having to work with the slaves for 13 hours a day without getting any food but rice and beans, Stanton proceeded to speak of the Labourers' Union, and said there were men going about the country doing all the harm they could. This sentence was received with loud cheering and groans, and the meeting afterwards was a perfect Babel. Stanton could not get a hearing, and the chairman (a farmer) appealed to the audience in vain. A man said that Stanton was an impostor, and this resulted in great uproar, in which two men got up in a state of frenzy, and, turning to the audience, said their friends had been murdered in Brazil, and that the emigration agents should be hanged. After an indescribable scene of confusion, which lasted for nearly half an hour, the chairman declared the meeting at an end.

THE discussion as to the best manner of warming our English homes has induced frequent mention of stoves. An improved kind is now in use in modern German houses, which combines the cheerfulness of the open grate with the warmth which that as yet fails to afford us. The modern German stove is covered with white china or porcelain tiles. It has in front a wide but shallow grate, capable of containing sufficient fire to delight the eye and warm any person within a few feet of it, while thorough warmth for the whole room is provided by the stove fire behind it. This is lighted at a little door in the side of the stove, and the smoke from it passes through the same channel as that of the fire in front—namely, a short pipe out of sight behind the stove, and continuing with the chimney in the wall. This being ascending into the upper part of the stove is thence dispersed into the room. As all who have wintered in North Germany will know, a stove fire is lighted in the morning and kept vigorously burning for an hour, after which no more fuel is supplied; the doors of the stove are shut, and the heat thus produced will last for many hours.

THE Commission of the International Exhibition are making stupendous efforts to produce an attractive, and, if possible, a remunerative programme for the third annual season, which is to open on the 1st of May next. The department of surgical instruments will afford opportunity for interesting and improving study, as well as a warning of the ills which flesh is heir to. It might, as we would venture to suggest, be enhanced in attractiveness and practical effect by the introduction of a few lay figures, upon which some of the most difficult and critical operations might be performed, with explanatory remarks, at certain intervals in the day. But the most charming and consoling part of the entire scheme will be the cooking class, for which the London School of Cookery has propounded no less than one hundred recipes for as many dishes, suitable to persons with incomes ranging under £500 a year, which will be practically illustrated before a succession of epicurean visitors, who will no doubt enjoy their lunch with all the greater zest for the fact of having assisted at its preparation. But is all this greasy project justified by the great and enlightened purpose which the lamented Prince Consort had in view when he inaugurated the foundation of a vast scheme of buildings on the Gore House estate in the interests of science and art? There has been too much of tea-garden and music-hall business at this highly-patronized establishment already, and now it is to degenerate into a veritable cook-shop.

EPILEPSY OF FITS.—A sure cure for this distressing complaint is now made known in a Treatise (of 48 octavo pages) on Foreign and Native Epilepsy, published by PROF. O. PHELPS BROWN, 2, King-street, Covent-Garden, London. The prescription was discovered by him in such a providential manner that he cannot conscientiously refuse to make it known, as it has cured everybody who has used it for Fits, never before failed in a single case, and the ingredients may be obtained from any chemist. Sent free to any address on application to PROF. O. PHELPS BROWN, 2, King-street, Covent-Garden, London.

THE "NORTHFLEET."

DIVING has been resumed at Dungeness, owing to improved weather. On Saturday the diver Parker descended as far as the main-top of the *Northfleet*, where he encountered a quantity of loose sails, which rendered it impossible for him to go down lower until they were removed. The late gales have made very considerable havoc amongst the masts and yards of the *Northfleet*, which are broken in all directions, and in their present state render diving operations more dangerous. Every effort is being made to clear away the rigging as speedily as possible. The top of the foredeck-house has floated up, also an empty chest.

At the recent meeting of the Mansion-house Committee for the relief of the survivors of the *Northfleet*, a letter was received from a gentleman, who requested that his name might

not be mentioned, stating, on the authority of one of the survivors, that a conspiracy existed among forty or fifty of the navvies to throw the captain overboard during the voyage in consequence of the short supply of provisions.

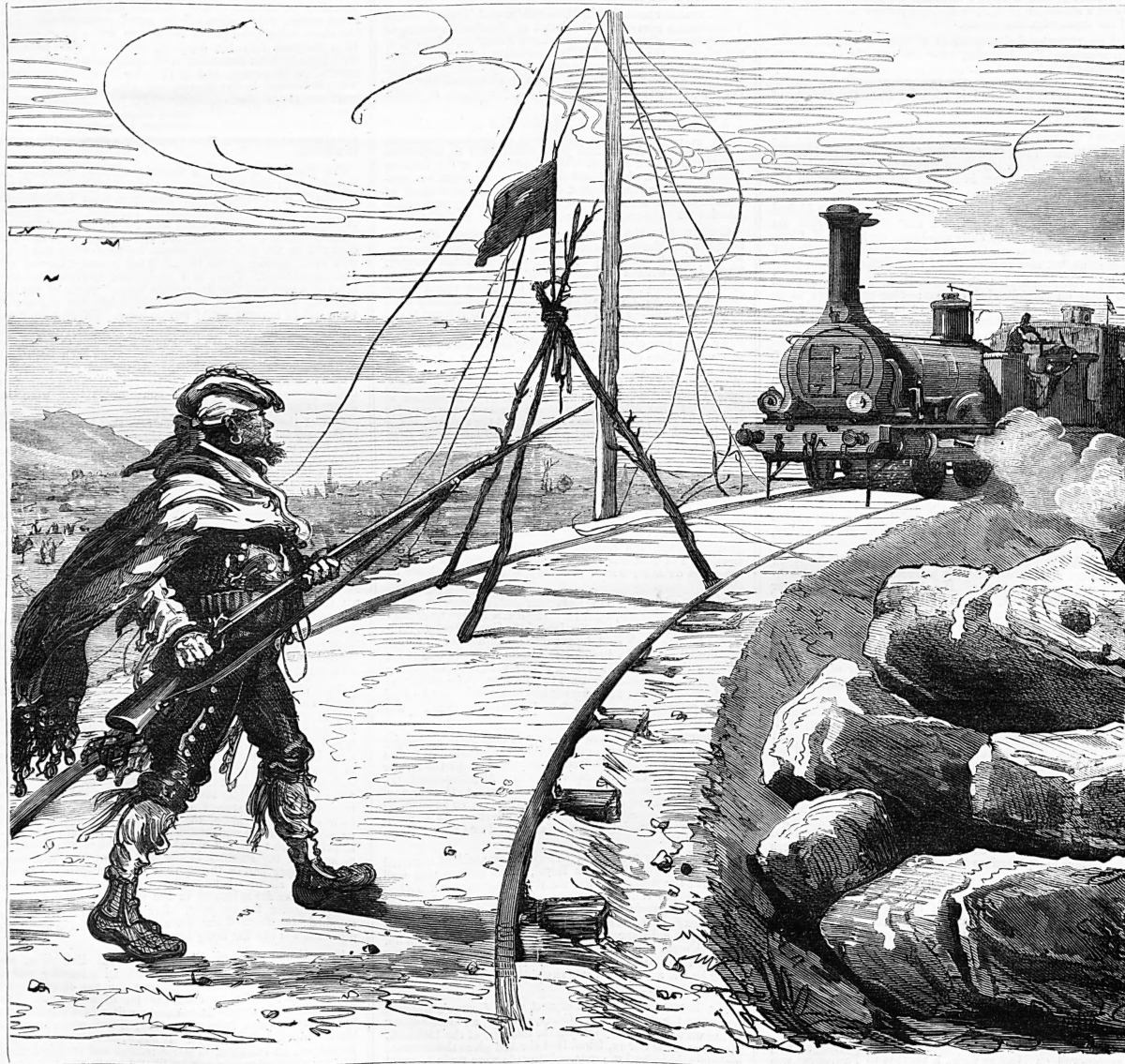
A Madrid telegram conveys the startling and disappointing intelligence that the Spanish Court of Inquiry into the career of the *Murillo* steamer, between her departure from Antwerp and her arrival at Lisbon, has declared her not to be the vessel which ran down the *Northfleet*; and the *Murillo* has consequently been released.

It is telegraphed from Cadiz that the owners of the *Murillo* have brought an action against Mr. Macpherson, Lloyd's agent at that port, in which they claim the sum of £2,000, in respect of damage sustained through the publication of untruthful statements in telegrams sent by him to England, and printed in the *Times* on the 1st of February.

Bell, the passenger on board the *Murillo*, and Bethell and Goodere, engineers, have left Cadiz for London.

The Imperial Government of Germany has announced its willingness to consent to a modification of the existing criminal code, whereby the abandonment of sinking vessels under circumstances similar to the abandonment of the *Northfleet* by the *Murillo* shall be made a penal offence.

When a member of the Imperial family of Austria dies, the body of the deceased is put through a sort of post-mortem ceremony, which savours of barbarism. It is stated that before the remains are placed in mother earth the heart is taken to one church, the entrails to another, and the body to a third. It is highly creditable to the late Dowager Empress Caroline Augusta that she protested in her will against being thus dealt with, and her desire was respected.



THE CARLISTS IN SPAIN.—STOPPING A RAILWAY TRAIN NEAR THE ZINGARA STATION.

SOME years ago a sketch was published in *Punch* which represented some banditti looking in disgust at a passing express train, from the windows of which passengers were to be seen making derisive signs at them—a hint that when railway travelling became more general the picturesque bandit would take his place with the English highwayman among the things of a past age. The Spaniards may claim the credit of having turned what seemed destructive to this particular industry to positive account, inasmuch that robberies of trains in that country are becoming a matter of everyday occurrence; and what with this state of things, the exploits of the Carlists, and the tax of 10 per cent. recently levied by Government on all railway fares, it seems probable that there will soon be no trains left to rob.

One of the last outrages of this kind, which furnishes the subject of our engraving, occurred early on the morning of the 4th inst. at a small station called Zancara, on the Madrid and Alicante Railway, near its junction with the line from Andalusia at Alcazar de San Juan. An account of the *modus operandi* may interest our readers, who must lay aside all thoughts of Clapham Junction, and must picture to themselves a treeless plain, no village within miles, and two trains a day. In

this case the usual plan was followed. A band of some thirty or forty men took possession of the station, a mere shed, before the train from Alicante was due, and locked up all the *employes*. They then erected a slight barricade across the line and posted sentinels. When the train arrived they compelled the passengers to keep their places; and having beaten the guard severely for being somewhat slow in obeying their orders, they seized the boxes in which money was being conveyed, to the amount of nearly £4,000, partly belonging to Government and partly consisting of private remittances. These they forced open with an axe, with which they had come provided. Having got the big prize, they left the passengers unmolested, and quietly took their departure.

Strange to say, a few miles the other side of Alcazar a smaller band was lying in wait, apparently for the same train. In this case they had torn up some rails, and as they were disappointed of their booty amused themselves by stopping a goods train, and having detached the engine, turned on full steam and let it run into the embankment. The leader of this latter band boldly announced himself to the engine-driver as Tomas Guzman, a well-known person in those parts, who

has been an officer, and deserted with some of his men during the last Republican rising. The larger party are supposed to be the same who, in the Spring of last year, stopped a train in the Pass of Despenaperros and killed one or two of the passengers. Some of them were afterwards taken, but, after being kept in prison a few weeks, were let out without a trial—no one knows why.

A very little energy on the part of the Spanish Government would have stamped out outrages of this class, but they behaved with a weakness or apathy which, to an Englishman, is perfectly unintelligible. No wonder that some of the timid are beginning to sigh for the good old days of O'Donnell or Narvaez, who on his deathbed, when asked by the priest to forgive the enemies he left behind him, replied that he was happy to say that he had not an enemy in the world, as he had shot them all. Meantime, the general public in Madrid eat, drink, and are merry, and take no notice of what happens outside the walls of their own city; a short and inaccurate paragraph appears in the newspapers, and the next day the event is forgotten. And in the terrible events which are preparing for this unhappy country such incidents as the above bid fair to pass quite unnoticed.



THE FESTIVAL OF BLACK PUDDINGS.—A SINGULAR ANNUAL CUSTOM IN BRITANY.

ABROAD.

THE island of St. Michael, so justly celebrated for its oranges, is likely soon to be equally famous for its pine-apples. The production is annually increasing.

It is said that the lower classes in Japan are afraid of the telegraph, not being able to see how the thing works. They fancy the whole arrangement is a device of the devil.

INDIA has been invaded for the first time by Cook's tourists, a party of whom have been doing the lions of Agra and Delhi.

A FRENCH sportsman has been killed by a wild boar, which goaded him to death after he had wounded the animal. The boar was found dead upon his victim.

A POLISH Jew of Wilna, who was so unfortunate as to have his house burned down, was fined twenty-five roubles by the Russian magistrates for crying "Fire" in the Polish language.

THE new system of army organization in Russia, which is based on the Prussian system of general compulsory service, is to come into operation next year. The last conscription under the old system took place last Saturday.

A SERIOUS disturbance between Russian and American sailors has occurred at Hankow, and "fearful punishments" are said to have been inflicted on the offending Russians by their officers.

HIS MAJESTY'S ship *Orestes*, on her way to Madeira, caught fire in one of her coal bunkers. The promptitude of her officers and crew extinguished it before it got serious hold of the ship.

THE state of France may be said to be exactly what it was before M. Thiers escaped to settle matters with the Assembly. He has failed, and all the evils that can emanate from a house divided against itself are likely to ensue.

FRONT ST. Domingo it is reported that an American company have purchased the Bay of Samana, established an independent Government, raised their own flag, and established their own police and revenue officials.

THE Common Council of Antwerp have voted the sum of 8,000,000 francs for the purpose of enlarging their docks and constructing new piers, in order to facilitate the entry, loading, and unloading of steamers in the Scheldt.

ONE of the correspondents of a Bombay newspaper gives it as his opinion that Nana Sahib died in Nepal some six months ago. About that time his widow, it is stated, distributed her hair among her various relatives, a certain sign that her husband had departed this life.

ADVICES from Hayti state that a conspiracy to upset the elections which were progressing for the formation of a National Assembly was discovered in one of the northern departments. Five of the conspirators were shot, and sixty more arrested.

ADVICES from Yokohama state that the exportation for the late season of boxes of silkworms' eggs amounted to 1,260,000, and their quality is generally regarded as excellent, the Imperial Government having shown the greatest zeal, and acted with rigour against the individuals who prepared bad seed to send abroad.

AMID "vociferous cheers," frequently renewed, Count Auerperg, the Austrian Minister, President, has laid before the Reichsrath the promised Bills on Electoral Reform—which, he said, had been matured and conscientiously examined, "in order that they might become the basis of a calm and safe development of constitutional life in Austria."

THE Captain-General of Cuba has issued a proclamation announcing the changes which have taken place in Spain, and enjoining obedience to the Government chosen by the Cortes. Intense excitement prevails in Havana. Business is unsettled, and the slave-owners are displeased at the proclamation of the Republic.

In the Italian Chamber of Deputies, the former Premiers—Minghetti and Rattazzi, with many other members belonging to all parties—brought forward a declaration of their affection and devotion to King Amadeus for his worthy and frankly constitutional conduct during the late events; and after some speeches in praise of his ex-Majesty, the declaration was unanimously adopted.

A DEMONSTRATION of the students of Naples University took place last Saturday morning against Señor Persico, who is one of the professors and a member of the Municipal Council. This gentleman has attempted to compel the teaching of the Catholic catechism in the schools, and a considerable amount of bad feeling has been consequently occasioned.

THE Commission appointed by the Italian Government to report on the religious corporations has definitively decided to abolish the houses of the heads of the Orders. The heads themselves, however, will be maintained in their position, and will receive pecuniary indemnity in rentes, and will be allowed to occupy a portion of the buildings which at present are courts.

"ONE of the Japanese Ambassadors," says the *Gazette*, "is said to be about to marry the daughter of a Paris banker. The young lady marries the foreigner because a young man to whom she was betrothed was compromised in the late financial affairs. The despair of the damsel produced a deep impression on the Mikado's representative, who, in order to console the fair one, offered his love, his hand, and a wedding outfit, which is said to be a collection of wonders."

THE American House of Representatives has passed General Butler's Bill for regulating the distribution of the indemnity awarded by the Geneva Court of Arbitration. It recognizes the claims of the actual owners of vessels and cargoes, the officers and seamen of those vessels, and of Government war ships which were destroyed or captured by Confederate cruisers. The Bill also admits the claims of insurers, but excludes insurance companies.

THE Modoc Indians, emboldened by their recent success, attacked the camp of the troops on Tule Lake, California, January 23, but were repulsed, one Indian being killed and three wounded, and all their horses captured. The troops suffered no loss. As near as can be learnt, about 100 men were engaged on each side. General Wheaton, who was in command at the former battle, has been superseded, and General Gillen has succeeded him. Reinforcements are beginning to arrive at the soldiers' camp, but they experience great difficulty in getting there.

AN extraordinary accident has just occurred in Paris. A man was walking quietly along smoking his cigar, behind a man who was carrying about a bundle of those little red balloons which are the delight of the rising generation, when a puff of wind suddenly drove the india-rubber bags against the cigar, and all exploded. The poor smoker was suddenly enveloped in a mass of flame, which burned off his big moustache and beard and singed his face.

A GOODS-TRAIN leaving Mestre for Padua, when just outside the station, met with an unusual accident. The boiler of the engine burst, tearing the locomotive to pieces, sending the forward half, with the four wheels, fire tender and wagoons along the line, and reversing and overturning the tender and wagoons to the last one. The fireman was shot up into the air with such force, that coming in contact with the telegraph wires they snapped like threads, and the man, describing a semicircle, fell dead.

HERR LASKER'S speech on the financial corruption in connection with railway concessions, on Saturday last, caused great excitement, and about the Lower House of the Prussian Diet. The House of Deputies spoke for two hours, accepting as a sign of wise policy the Government proposal to institute a Commission of Inquiry, but demanding some guarantee that the investigation should be most rigorous, and that each member of the Commission should have the fullest scope. Count von Roon gave promises on this score, which Herr Lasker considered satisfactory.

THE trial of the persons implicated in the affair of the Bois de Boulogne of Lille was brought to a conclusion on Saturday last at Douai. Cuvellier and Butui were sentenced to twenty years, Mercher and Lelien to eight years, and Mullier to five years' hard labour. Bastie to eight years, Bourd to five years, and Delavoye to eighteen months' imprisonment. Dominy has been acquitted. The strongest popular feeling was manifested against the prisoners. Thirty-eight women, victims of their outrages, were heard as witnesses for the prosecution. The public prosecutor charged three of them with being accessory to the murder of Haviez.

THE *Journal Officiel* announces that a second payment of eight millions sterling on account of the fourth milliard of the indemnity was made to Germany on the 6th, 7th, and 8th inst. Thus the balance of the indemnity still to be paid by France is, irrespective of interest, only £24,000,000; and when we consider the yield of the recent loan and the unswerving confidence of capitalists everywhere in the future of the country, it can hardly be doubted that the final evacuation will be effected months before the date fixed in the original Treaty of Peace—the 1st of May, 1874.

POPE PIO NONO received a courteous, but nationally characteristic response from a deputation of United States navy officers who paid their respects last week. His Holiness inquired whether, in case of need, he could depend on a welcome in America, and a "captain" promptly and politely answered "that the United States would consider it a great honour if his Holiness would accept their hospitality." Question and answer seem to have been alike purposeless and inappropriate; and the self-assurance of the captain who answers for his country and his Government without hesitation, suggests a comparison with those equally patriotic tradesmen who dwell in Tooley-street.

PRINCE NAPOLEON's action against M. Victor Lefrance, the ex-Minister, for false imprisonment, came on last week, before President Aubequin. M. Duval, formerly Minister of the Interior under the Empire, was counsel for the Prince. He said that he was pleading the cause not only of Prince Napoleon, but of every French citizen, including the Comte de Chambord, the Orleans Princes, and the President of the Republic himself; for strong with this president, nothing was more likely than that some future Government might arbitrarily banish M. Thiers. There was no law banishing the Bonaparte family; and he contended that the functionaries who laid hands on the Prince were clearly liable for their illegal act.—Judgment was deferred.

A HORRIBLE conflict, caused by jealousy and conjugal fidelity, was lately fought out with fatal results in the Rue Carteaux, Paris. A crowd assembled round No. 11 in the street, where a lady was clinging to the railings on the balcony of the fourth storey. Some of the crowd rushed up the staircase, but ere they could reach the door a man was seen to climb over the balcony, to tear loose the woman's hands, and both fell into the street with a fearful crash. The miserable pair were husband and wife. The former had detected his wife's infidelity, and resolved to dash her into the street. Subsequently he seems to have decided to share her fate. The husband was taken up stone dead; the wife was still living, but life cannot long linger in her mutilated frame.

THE Japan papers state that the educational movement was progressing rapidly, and new schools were being erected everywhere. Many complaints were made of over-legislation by the Japanese Government regarding matters usually left to private discretion. Kite-flying and "expectoration in the streets" had been prohibited, and female hairdressers are to be abolished as a class, every woman in future being expected to do her own hair. In addition, the soft mats with which all native houses are floored are to be banished from Japanese houses, the alleged reason being that they are productive of laziness. Several native newspapers have been established. The Japanese calendar has been assimilated with our own. The alteration came in force on the 1st of January. The Mikado has established an order of knighthood similar to the order of the Bath. A native club has been started, and gas is nearly laid throughout Yokohama.

MONSIEUR MERMILLON the recalcitrant Bishop, was arrested by the chief of police at Geneva on Monday morning in obedience to the orders of the Federal Council at Berne. The Bishop assembled the priests in his house, where the arrest took place, and dictated a protest. The police accorded Monsignor Mermillon only a few minutes' preparation, during which he was not allowed out of sight. Being confined to the door, where a one-horse cab was in waiting, the Bishop wished to walk, but finally consented to enter the vehicle, to avoid all chance of disturbance. When asked where he wished to be taken, he replied that he had no orders to give. The Commissary of Police then directed the vehicle towards Ferney, four and a half miles from Geneva, nearly a mile beyond the French frontier and the scene of Voltaire's exile. Upon reaching the frontier, Monsignor Mermillon left his cab and walked to Ferney, accompanied by four priests, who had followed in another vehicle. They entered the church of Ferney, where the cure of the parish came to offer hospitality, which was accepted.

A SCENE took place in the French Chamber on Monday which may be said to be unusually animated, even for that Assembly. The debate arose out of the charge made by Carayon La Tour, on the 30th of January, when, in the debate on the Lyons contracts, he accused M. Challeme-Lacour of having written across a report made by the Mayor of Venissieux, the words, "Shoot all these fellows for me!"—alluding to the Mobile Guards. The Deputy admitted that the document in question had been destroyed; but he insisted upon the accuracy of the fact, and was supported in the statement by a letter from General Bressolles. The Deputy whose conduct is impugned not only denied having made the order in question, but also the competency of the Chamber to constitute itself into a court of justice, and demanded a judicial inquiry. The tumult that went on during the debate was something terrible.

THE Legislature of Pennsylvania has set a noble example of sobriety to the rest of the Union. On the 29th ult. a resolution was moved, "providing that no spirituous, vinous, or malt liquors shall be kept or drunk in the House, or in any of the rooms connected therewith." It was passed to refer this resolution to the "Committee on Vice and Immorality," but in the end it was adopted by ninety-two votes to three. It was then moved that "all bottles, except those for ink, shall be removed from the cloak-room of the House," and this resolution was also carried by seventy-nine to eight votes. The next day a further resolution was adopted, directing the clerk to exclude all spirituous or malt liquors from the hall or rooms attached. Feurs are entertained that some members of the House may become dissatisfied with the kind of ink at present furnished, and that the ink-bottle may be converted into an engine of intemperance by being used as a receptacle for whisky; and, indeed, it is so common a practice for deliberate assemblies to eat their own words, that it will not be surprising if the world to hear that the Pennsylvania Legislature has taken to swallowing its own ink.

ANOTHER of those patriots who "distinguished" themselves during the late Franco-German war—a farmer, named Longuet—has just been tried by the Court of Assizes of the Aisne for carrying on relations with the enemy, denouncing his neighbours, and giving information concerning the depôts of arms, ammunition, &c. According to the evidence adduced, Longuet had, amongst other cowardly things, denounced a landed proprietor of the locality, named Poche, a councillor of arrondissement, as hiding in his house a number of young men who feared to be carried off by the Prussians. A requisition took place, Longuet accompanying the Prussian officer, and pointing out the place to him. The young men, who had been hiding in the cellar, had, however, escaped before the arrival of the Prussian troops. On the following day the Prussians left the town, and Longuet was immediately arrested by the inhabitants of the Commune. The place was, however, occupied by fresh troops shortly afterwards, and Longuet was released by them. Before the jury Longuet confessed to having told the Prussians where they would find supplies of arms, &c., but pleaded his innocence of the other and graver charges against him. The evidence of the witnesses against him was, however, overwhelming, and Longuet was sentenced to five years' imprisonment.

A MADAME BONNEAU, living in the Rue Descartes, was sitting in her parlour a few days since, awaiting her husband's return to dinner, when a man of wild and haggard appearance entered, and, seating himself opposite to her, addressed her in the following terms:—"I am a great doctor. I can effectually cure all headaches. I have heard that you suffer from that cause, and I am come to cure you." The lady, perceiving that she had to deal with a madman, prudently seemed to fall into his humour, and asked what was his method of treatment. "Simple enough, madame," said he, drawing a razor from his pocket; "I cut off the head, and then, after having well cleaned it, I replace it upon the shoulders." Upon this he prepared to suit the action to his words. Madame Bonneau, with great coolness, professed her readiness to submit to the operation, but suggested that she should fetch a towel from the next room to prevent her dress being stained. Her visit to the next room was, however, a mere pretence, and she left the room, locking the door behind her. When she returned, with some police officers, they found that the unfortunate madame had cut off her own throat, but not fatally. It was ascertained that he had escaped from a lunatic asylum at Clermont les Pres, and had been vainly sought for during a whole month.

PASSED AWAY.

M. LACROIX, foster brother of the late Emperor Napoleon, from the effects of a terrible railway accident.

MGR. LOSANNA, Bishop of Biella, and the oldest Italian bishop.

M. BRANDUS, the well-known music publisher of Paris. He was carried off in three days by a pleurisy.

GENERAL BOWERS, who served for many years at Calcutta, and also in the Cape of Good Hope, at his residence, Walspeen Newbury, aged 68.

MRS. HEWAT VAN WART, one of the foremost of the commercial men of Birmingham, on Saturday last, at the age of eighty-nine.

DR. CHARLES A. OOLIVIE, canon of Christ Church, Regius Professor of Theology, and one of the oldest members of the University of Oxford.

SIR R. HENEGAN, K.C., at the advanced age of 80 years. As Chief Commissary of the Field Train of Horse Artillery, he served with distinction during the Peninsula War and at Waterloo.

INSPECTOR-GENERAL BRONNE, of the Belgian Post Office, who died suddenly in his carriage after having received an accident of the leg. He was a great promoter of the penny postage system.

MR. JAMES FARISH, a gentleman who, after a long career of active service in India, was for a time acting governor of Bombay. It is now many years since his return home, and, during the whole of that period he has been actively associated with the Church Missionary Society and many other religious institutions of the metropolis. He was one of the original proprietors of the *Record* newspaper.

COMMODORE MAURY, formerly of the United States Navy, and author of the "The Physical Geography of the Sea," and other scientific works. Commodore Maury was upon the Virginia, and when the civil war broke out in 1861, he espoused the Confederate cause, and had charge in Europe of the fitting out of the *Alabama*, *Florida*, *Shenandoah*, and other vessels which were armed for the Confederate navy.

OUR ILLUSTRATIONS.

THE FEST AT GOADENNON.

Is Brittany, that singular north-west corner of France, a number of strange old-fashioned customs continue to flourish, despite the spread of modern civilization. The belief in fairies, devils, and witches is still universal, as is that in miraculous wells, healing springs, and the efficacy of pilgrimages to saintly shrines. Indeed, a degree of ignorance and superstition prevails only to be compared to the Fetish worship existing on the West Coast of Africa.

As a matter of course the priests make their profit out of all this. The Fest at Goadennon, or Festival of Black Puddings, of which we give an engraving, is an instance. The Breton peasant, for some superstitious reason, the origin of which seems lost in the mists of ages, invariably kills his pig on Twelfth Day. The slaughter is accompanied by several mystical ceremonies, and then all the family assemble to eat the black puddings, of which, however, the parish priest has taken good care to previously secure his share.

This is accomplished by the aid of a little ceremony. The statue of Saint Anthony, who is the patron saint of the porcine race, is taken from the church and exhibited at the gate of the grave-yard, and by it is stationed a boy with a bell, with which he summons the villagers to deposit their offerings. Of course they could not think of disregarding such an appeal, and the statue is soon covered with strings of black-puddings. The marguilliers, or churchwardens, in due time bound, show themselves the most liberal. To their offerings of puddings they usually add the feet and ears of the pig, this being considered the proper thing for them to do. Sometimes they go so far as to give the whole head, wearing it on their way like a helmet on their own skull; a stomach so delicate as to object to eat it after such a proceeding being quite unknown amongst the Breton clergy.

Our artist has succeeded in giving a very lifelike and truthful sketch of this festival. The roughly-sculptured statue of Saint Anthony, with the traditional pig carved at his feet, the quaint church, the crowds of peasants in their picturesque though too frequently uncleanly costumes, and the accompanying beggars who swarm to an almost incredible extent in Brittany, and who are sure to be found to the fore on an occasion like the present, are all remarkably true to nature.

"CRUISING," OR HUNTING THE MOOSE.

One of the most exciting of Canadian sports is "cruising," or hunting the moose on snow-shoes, the name being derived from the thin crust which first causes to form on the snow.

The moose is a strange, unwieldy animal, with a huge head, and immensely muscular neck. The fore-feet are perfectly straight, but the hind hoofs are splayed and awkward, and the long, loose, horny points strike as the beast moves. They are the snow-shoes with which nature has supplied it.

As it can thus move rapidly over the crust formed on the surface of the snow, through which a man would sink, the hunters use snow-shoes to follow their game. Having started a moose, or several, if luck is good, into a fine, open country, the race begins. The great clumsy creatures, weighing nearly a ton, with their heads thrown back, their immense nostrils expanded high in air, and their hind legs wide apart, to prevent striking shuffly away with a speed that seems utterly incompatible with their awkward gait; but though this is a slouching trot, it is often sufficient to distance pursuit.

If more than one, they keep in Indian file, following each other's track, and sinking to some extent, unless the snow be very hardy frozen, as they go; but though the hunter's broad snow-shoes bear him lightly over the glittering plain, he finds that he must strain every nerve, or the awkward beast will elude him; if the animal be a two-year-old, still in his prime, he will lead his pursuers a long chase, and perhaps finally reach thick woods, and in the darkness escape.

An old moose, or "original," as the Canadians call them, will often disdain to run, and will turn on his pursuer, when all depends on a steady hand and a sure rifle. Sometimes the aim misses, and the immense animal is upon the hunter on his slippery footing, and snow-shoes are not exactly convertible things to fight in. Then the huge antlers are terrible weapons, and the only chance is to ply the knife with coolness and energy.

Few winter hunts have greater attractions, and moose-hunting is still a favourite pursuit, especially with English officers in Canada, where there is no indiscriminate slaughter has sadly thinned out the once numerous herds of moose. If we remember aright, the Prince of Wales and Prince Arthur both indulged in this exhilarating sport during their respective visits to the "Old Dominion." The former must have found a moose more worthy of his prowess than the Chillingham bull.

THE STRIKE IN SOUTH WALES.

In South Wales the position, according to the latest intelligence we have received, is less hopeful than was expected. No further adhesions have been made to the basis of compromise accepted on Saturday last by Mr. Brodgen's firm, and for the great body of the men on strike the state of affairs has not improved. Many of the ironmasters of the Dowlais district have taken measures for stopping their work permanently, or at least for a considerable period. This step has, it appears, much surprised the miners, who hitherto employed in these mines, who will now be compelled either to seek employment elsewhere, or go into the collieries. As a great many of them live in cottages of their own, the latter step will, perhaps, be widely adopted. The number thus affected cannot be less than 5,500.

A correspondent residing in the district has forwarded us a sketch, which we engrave, representing a band composed of miners, assembled for the purpose of practice in the "general shop" of the village. Their object is doubtless to figure triumphantly at the head of a procession of "turn-outs," and with the view of achieving this result they are hard at work. The conductor has evidently thrown his whole soul into the business, and, as it is working hard to inspire his colleagues with similar enthusiasm, the thumper of the big drum seems to share this enthusiasm, and is apparently prepared himself for hard work. The man playing the small drum, however, seems anxious and nervous, and keeps his eyes fixed on his chief in a painful way. He awaits the signal to rattle away with feverish eagerness, and is so absorbed that if his chair was to break down beneath him it would not disturb him. The flute is piping spasmodically, watching all his companions in should get before him, or behind them. The stolid-looking violin-player, however, seems perfectly contented with himself, and regardless of his

companions. The shopkeeper at his desk leans forward with a critically approving air, whilst the remainder of the small audience listen with great attention.

THE CARNIVAL AT BARCELONA.

The Carnival in Southern Europe is emphatically what the Americans style an "institution." South Germany, Italy and Spain all vie each other in display during this period of festival and folly, by which they seek to compensate for the approaching rigours of Lent. The Carnival masked balls of Paris are well known, but in most of the southern countries open-air processions by daylight form one of the most important features in the celebration. In these huge wicker-work giants, handed down by tradition from the middle ages, frequently play no unimportant part. Many continental towns, notably those of Flanders and Germany have their pet giants; and, indeed, in the municipal records of many of our English boroughs similar monstrosities are to be found mentioned.

In Barcelona, that hot-bed of Spanish democracy, the Carnival is annually celebrated with great pomp and magnificence, not from any overpowering religious fervour on the part of the inhabitants, who, indeed, in such matters are greatly in advance of the rest of the countrymen, but from their passion for pomp, tumult, and display. In their procession a whole family of giants, all having pet names by which they are endeared to the populace, figures.

The customary festivities have, however, this year been somewhat interrupted by the abdication of King Amadeus, and the confusion consequently prevailing throughout the country. The *Diario* of Barcelona says that great agitation prevailed.

The flag hoisted on the Hôtel de Ville was of a red ground, with a silver triangle in the centre, containing the word "Democracy." The triangle was surrounded with stars and a huge inscription, "Cataluna." A demonstration of students took place, at which they demanded liberty of instruction, the abolition of fees, and the evacuation of the new University by the military. The Governor promised to convey their wishes to the Government. The University has been occupied in consequence of its being a strategic point. Numerous other demonstrations of the Catalan workmen followed this one of the students. The workmen demanded that the conscripts should be sent back to their homes, and that arms should be delivered to the working classes, municipal self-government, shorter working hours, and higher wages.

Various speakers addressed the crowd, which numbered about 4,000 or 5,000 persons, and which subsequently paraded the city. The casinos and Republican clubs hoisted the national flag during the day; and at night a good many private houses illuminated. During the afternoon a picket of cavalry surrounded the Café Delicias, and about 20 persons were arrested, said to be Carlists; and the Cabcilla Baranco amongst them. The Governor-Civil, Señor Loma, has issued a very wise proclamation, in which he advises the working men of Barcelona not to desert their workshops for sterile political agitations, saying that Spain now wants, more than ever, peace and savings by steady labour. So they seem to have too much to do to think of the Carnival.

THE MIKADO ON BOARD A RUSSIAN FRIGATE.

If any evidence were wanting of the sincerity of the Mikado of Japan in lifting the veil of mystery and superstition which has so long enveloped him and his predecessors, it is to be found in the recent event which is the subject of our illustration—his visit to the Russian frigate *Scythiana*. This vessel has lately visited Japan; and the Grand Duke Alexis, being one of her officers, was entertained by the Mikado in magnificent style. This entertainment naturally produced an invitation to the Mikado, from the Russian Prince, to accept the hospitality of his vessel; and, for the first time in the history of Japan, that hitherto mystic personage, the Temo, or Mikado, actually paid a visit to a foreign war-vessel.

Accommodation for the Mikado was provided on the bridge, and, after a brief inspection of the ship, his Majesty took his place in a crimson-covered chair on the port side of the bridge, having immediately behind him two Japanese nobles, the Duke, the Admiral, Mr. De Long, the Grand Duke's instructor, and the various foreign Ministers. The drum then beat to quarters, and fire-drill was gone through. Gun-drill followed, after which the other ships of the Russian squadron were exercised by signal in manoeuvres usually displayed on such occasions, followed by a couple of races between the boats of the squadrons, vigorously contested, the Prince's barge coming in a bad fifth. During much of this time the band played selections of lively airs; and, at the conclusion of the racing, a number of the sailors sang one of the quaint capstan-songs common to every nation, one man improvising a line of complimentary verses, and the others taking up a chorus to the rattle of a tambourine. This appeared to excite the Mikado's curiosity. He rose, and came to the starboard side of the gangway, and there sat, with a Mia sitting on either hand, watching the singers with more apparent interest than he had hitherto shown, and, after a poika had been performed, was amused with another song.

Then came the most interesting portion of the day's proceedings—the passing in review of the Japanese fleet, the flagship leading. As she steamed by the *Scythiana* the men on each ship swarmed into the rigging, cheers were exchanged, and the bands on each ship played the national air.

The position was a novel one for his Majesty, and was certainly a curiosity in historical spectacle. The Japanese squadron having passed, the royal party descended to the cabin to partake of refreshment, after which, returning on deck, the Mikado witnessed the spectacle of his fleet engaged in supposititious bombardment of hostile forts, the vessels sailing in a circle during the operation in the mode adopted at the destruction of Odessa.

THE MARRIAGE OF THE KHEDIVE'S HEIR.

We have already spoken of the marriage of the eldest son of the Viceroy of Egypt, and indeed in our last number, when mentioning the fact that the wedding presents were carried in the procession by soldiers, suggested that our own troops should have been utilized in a similar manner on St. Valentine's day in order to relieve the views of the Emperor. Thanks to M. A. Darjow, who is at present sojourning at Cairo, we are able to present our readers with an illustration of one of the most striking scenes in connection with these nuptials, the Viceroy leaving the El Mihnich palace after the signature of the marriage contract.

Our artist writes: "I went this morning to the El Mihnich palace, where the signature of the marriage contract took place, and where I witnessed a strange and picturesque sight. The whole population of the city seemed to have assembled in

front of the palace, and along a passage kept by a double row of troops, whose bands kept up one continuous blare, the principal people in Egypt passed in procession.

First came the Ministers and the members of the Privy Council, who were succeeded by the various sheiks and ulamas, these being followed in turn by the Khedive's younger sons, the Princes Hussein, Hassan, and Ibrahim. Next, preceded by grooms and running footmen, and escorted by a body of eunuchs mounted on splendid horses with bridles and saddles cloths enriched with gold and gems, came a carriage drawn by six horses, and containing the mother of the Khedive. This was followed by a string of close carriages containing the ladies of her suite, and then appeared the hero of the day, the bridegroom in an open victoria. Another train of vehicles bearing the wives and daughters of the Khedive succeeded. The Egyptian national hymn was now heard, and amidst its strains the open barouche of the Khedive surrounded by a brilliant escort, drew up at the door of the palace.

With some difficulty I succeeded in penetrating into the interior of the palace. Into an immense hall which lies to the right on entering opens a door leading to the harem, and it seems that the princesses, as well as the other ladies invited, had, in order to get to the apartments of the bride and bridegroom, this hall in presence of the crowd of guests assembled there. This is certainly a contrast to the days of Mehemet Ali, for in his time, whenever the princesses left or returned to the palace, the guards on duty had to turn their backs to them when presenting arms. At the end of this large hall, the Khedive had taken his station in a smaller saloon, a second was occupied by his sons, the Ministers and the Foreign representatives; a third by the sheiks and ulamas; and a fourth by the heads of the various other religious sects. Coffee and sherbet were handed round on magnificent trays, and pipes were offered to the more exalted personages, those of inferior rank having to content themselves with cigars and cigarettes.

In a small room where exquisite perfumes were being continually burnt, assembled the cad, two of the principal mollahs and two of the ministers, representatives of the bride and bridegroom, who all impressed their seals on the marriage contract, which was then read aloud before the assembled guests. The Khedive and the Prince then held a levée, after which they left the palace. I send you a sketch of their departure."

LITERATURE, SCIENCE, AND ART.

MR. THOMAS ARCHER has ceased to edit the *Hornet*.

A COMMITTEE of influential and eminent men has been formed at Athens to erect a new grand monument at Missolonghi in remembrance of Byron.

SIXTON RECORD, of Milan, is about to publish a work which will give the costumes, printed in colours, of all the characters in various operas.

THE success of the "Coming Race" has caused quite a Utopian literature. An anonymous *jeu d'esprit*, under the title of "Columbia," will soon appear.

THE first number of the *Jeinist World*, a new penny weekly paper, containing reports of matters especially interesting to the Hebrew community, was published last week.

HENRI ROCHEFORT has written a novel, entitled "Les Dépravés," during his imprisonment. The Minister of the Interior has, however, forbidden the publication of the work in France.

DR. LOUVEAU has been awarded a prize of 400 dols. by the French Academy of Sciences, for designing an apparatus for keeping grain in a vacuum, or rather within a vessel in which the air is so rarefied as to kill any granivorous insect.

BARON JAMES DE ROTHSCHILD, of Paris, and M. Picot, the French Consul at Temesvar, are at present in London, engaged in examining the volumes of early French poetry contained in the library of the British Museum.

THE Pope has complained to the Italian Government that M. Réaury's "Life of Jesus" is being published in a Roman newspaper, and has asked the Government to confiscate the paper. The Government has, however, refused to interfere in the matter.

THE total abstainers in England are about to employ a new weapon in their warfare against the vice of intoxication. They propose issuing a weekly comic paper, advocating the cause of temperance, and ridiculing drunkards and the vendors of intoxicating drinks.

A WHITE marble statue of the Queen, weighing seven tons, has just arrived at Windsor Castle. The Queen is represented sitting on a chair, with a dog lying by her side. A statue is being placed in the vestibule of the state apartments.

THE exhibition of plans for rebuilding the Hôtel de Ville, Paris, was opened last week to the public at the Palace of Industry, and will continue so until the 2nd of March. Sixty-six projects have been admitted and occupy twelve rooms, arranged in alphabetical order.

THE organ of the beautiful chapel in the Palace of Versailles, set up in 1737 by Alexandre Cluquet, has been entirely repaired, and enriched with all the improvements of modern art. The inauguration and trial took place last week, and the instrument was highly approved of.

A JAPANESE paper is to be published in London for the benefit of Japanese gentlemen travelling to see the Old World, and for their friends in London. It is to be edited by a Japanese gentleman in conjunction with Professor Sumners, of King's College, and will be called the *Tai sei Shinbun*, or Great Western News.

THE editor of the *Jeinist Messenger* says that "during all the years of his editorship perhaps not more than a dozen original poems have been sent to him from contributors of the Jewish faith, and during the past year he did not receive a single poetical effusion for insertion." Happy *Jeinist Messenger*? Oh, that Christian folk would hang their hurps upon the willows after the same excellent Hebrew fashion!

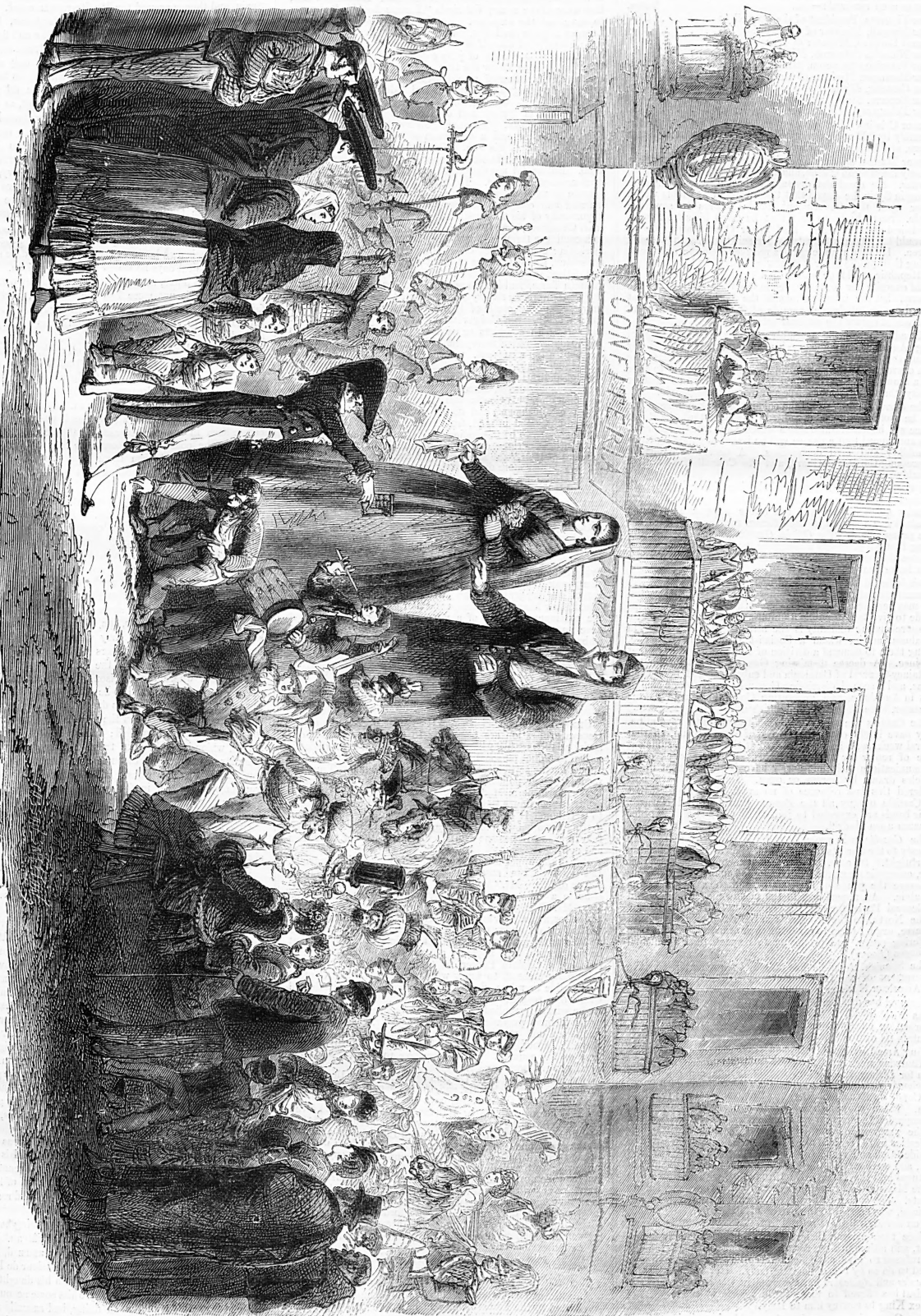
THE readers of *Punch* familiar with the numerous and varied stories current as to the circumstances surrounding the foundation of that journal may for the sum of one shilling have all doubt upon that head put at rest for ever. At that price Mr. Wade of Tavistock-street has issued a little work entitled "Mr. Punch, his Origin and Career," containing a complete record of all eventful passages in the existence of our contemporary and furnished, moreover, with a lithographic facsimile of the original prospectus, in the handwriting of Mark Lemon.



"CRUSTING;" OR HUNTING THE MOOSE IN CANADA.



THE GREAT STRIKE IN SOUTH WALES.—A MINERS' BAND PRACTISING.



MANNERS AND CUSTOMS OF SPAIN.—THE CARNIVAL PROCESSION AT BARCELONA.

IN THE PENINSULA.

On the Wednesday of last week the Spanish Cortes elected a Republican Government.

The following are the names of the Cabinet, and the number of votes each received:—

	Votes.
Senor Figueras, President of the Council	244
Senor Margall, Minister of the Interior	243
General Cordova, Minister of War	239
Senor Nicholas Salmeron, Minister of Justice	242
Senor Francisco Salmeron, Minister of the Colonies	246
Senor Beranger, Minister of Foreign Affairs	245
Senor Castelar, Minister of Public Works	233
Senor Beserra, Minister of Public Works	233
Senor Echegaray, Minister of Finance	242

Senor Cristino Martos was then elected President of the Assembly by 232 votes against 20 recorded in favour of Senor Rivero, and 16 blank voting-papers.

Senor Martos, on assuming the presidential chair, made a strongly Republican speech, and insisted upon the maintenance of order. He concluded by saying that in case of anarchy arising in Spain, he hoped that the sovereign Assembly would confer upon the Government ample powers to save the people. Senor Figueras said that he owed his appointment to political circumstances. Had Senor Orensé been present he would have been nominated. He said that elections should be free. He then read telegrams received from the provinces, stating that public order was nowhere disturbed. He hoped the Republic would be established for ever, and that Spain would exercise her just influence in the West of Europe. He believed that the other nations of the Latin race would not be tardy in imitating the example of Spain, and the Government would ensure the national integrity.

The addresses of the Assembly, in reply to the message of King Amadeus, announcing his abdication, concludes by stating that when the perils, conspiracies, and obstacles have been overcome, the Spanish people would not be able to offer him a crown, but that it would be able to offer him another dignity, that of citizen of a free and independent people.

The *Correspondencia* says the colours of the Republican flag will be violet, white, and red. It is stated that the Royal palace will be transformed into a museum and artistic academy. It is announced that a decree will be issued suppressing titles of nobility and civil decorations. A decree is published suppressing the Royal Guard, and the Council of State will probably be suppressed.

A decree has been issued abolishing the political oath required to be taken on entering the army. The decree whereby officers who did not swear allegiance to King Amadeus are restored to their former rank and dignities has been promulgated. The *Official Gazette* publishes a law providing that all prisoners undergoing punishment for political offences shall in future be separated from prisoners in confinement for ordinary crimes.

It is believed that the Federal preferences of Barcelona will be manifested also by several other provinces, and the question may become a serious one, should the Madrid Government decide to give the Republic a uniform form. Another cause for apprehending difficulty is the attitude of the peasants in Andalusia, among whom a Socialist propaganda is active, urging them to demand a division of the great estates in that province. A decree dismissing General Gamini from the Captaincy-General of Catalonia and substituting General Contreras, and a second dismissing General Merels from a similar post in Andalusia, and appointing General Acosta as his successor, have likewise been published.

The Carlists are not idle during the political revolution. They have lately cut the railways of North Spain, so that several weeks will be required to put the lines in a sufficient state of repair for resuming trains. During a week or so communications with the interior have been only kept up by vehicles drawn by horses or oxen. The snows have now rendered this last resource of no avail. It is asserted that the Carlists occupy all the Basque provinces and Navarre. Their bands are expected to join those of Catalonia in order to march upon Madrid.

The *Gazette* will probably publish a decree offering an amnesty to the Carlists if they shall lay down their arms within a fortnight. In case, however, of non-compliance with that offer, energetic measures will be adopted against them in order to assure the peace of the country, and the salvation of the Republic. An appeal has in the meanwhile been addressed by General Pavía, the new Commander-in-Chief of the Army of the North, to the insurgents in the Basque provinces and Navarre, urging them to lay down their arms, at the same time proffering peace, and promising to respect their municipal privileges (*fueros*).

The Spanish Republic has already been recognized by the Government of the United States, through General Sickles, the American Minister.

Portugal has declared that, while desiring to live upon good terms with Spain, it has no intention to allow itself to be absorbed in an Iberian agglomeration, but is determined to maintain its own independence.

King Amadeus, his Queen, and their children, left Madrid on Thursday week at six o'clock in the morning, by special train for Lisbon, the doctors having pronounced the Queen sufficiently recovered to travel. General Tassara and Burgos, the Conde de Reus, and other high officials, were in the royal train. There were also an *avant garde* of honour, which accompanied them as far as the frontier. Accounts received of the progress of the King and Queen state that their Majesties were received at all the stations with every token of consideration and respect. They reached Lisbon on the 14th inst., and were met at the station by the King and Queen of Portugal and the Infanta Dom Augustus, with the members of the Ministry and the Italian envoy. Great crowds filled the streets. The Queen of Spain, on alighting from the railway carriage, was carried to the palace of Belem in a sedan-chair, and on her arrival there retired to rest.

Since their arrival their Majesties have resided in retirement, and although King Amadeus has visited King Ferdinand, has refused to give any official receptions in Lisbon, though asked to do so by the diplomatic body. Her Majesty's ships *Hercules* and *Agincourt* have arrived in the harbour, and the admiral has offered to place those vessels at the disposal of the ex-King to convey him to Italy.

The Queen is progressing favourably, but it is not yet decided when they will leave, nor what route they will take.

Spaniards arriving in Paris are all of opinion that political anarchy and civil war will result from the present state of affairs in Spain.

HEREDITARY ABDICATION.

KING AMADEUS of Spain has but followed what seems to be the inevitable traditional fate of his family. In the annals of the House of Savoy a natural demise of the crown—that is, by death—seems to be almost the exception. Amadeus VIII., first duke of the name, Voltaire's "Bonne Amie," appears to have set the example. He threw up his duchy merely because he grew tired of it, for his career had been a successful one; established himself in a comfortable retreat on the Lake of Geneva, with a court of jolly companions; came out again to be made Pope under the title of Felix V. (whether he was the particular Pontiff who became celebrated in German song as "leading a life divine;" and "drinking the best of Rhenish wine," we cannot tell); resigned the Papacy in a couple of years, and died quietly in his bed as a private gentleman. Emanuel Philibert, greatest of the dukes, a soldier and a statesman of celebrity, abdicated in 1575 in favour of his son. Victor Emmanuel, first King of Sardinia, abdicated in like manner in favour of his son, in 1730. But he did not digest his resignation so quietly as his predecessors had done. He wanted to come back; incited thereto by an ambitious woman of inferior rank whom he had married and created Countess de Spino. Profiting by the opportunity of his son's casual absence from Turin, he started from Chambéry, over the Mont Cenis, for his capital, in order to ascend the throne again. The young King, warned by an intriguing confessor, set out for the same point at once, on horseback, across the pass of Saint Bernard. The rivals, son and father, fairly raced for it. The son won by a neck. He got into Turin, and his father and mother-in-law could hear the discharge of artillery which greeted his arrival, just as they reached the castle of Rivoli. Then they knew that the game was up. A "Roi-revenant" is by no means a popular character with courtiers or with subjects. Victor Amadeus had to abdicate once more, and this time in earnest: his lady was shut up in a convent.

In 1802, Charles Emmanuel the Second went through the form of abdication; it is not easy to see why, except to maintain the family unity, since the French Republic had seized just then on all his Continental possessions. He went into a Jesuit establishment, and died there. Victor Emmanuel the Second abdicated in 1821, from sheer fright at a Constitution which seemed to be impending. Of Charles Albert, known in his youth as Prince de Carignan, in his later days as the "Sword of Italy," we have heard very fresh among us. Never did any leader more deliberately or more courageously sacrifice himself for a cause which he knew to be desperate, but to which his own defeat might yet communicate a more persistent vitality. He fought the Battle of Novara against advice, without generals, and without hope. He looked for a bullet to end all the vain valour of yet fresh among us. He came out. He too, abdicated and died. "He was hardly fifty-two, and of a strong constitution; but he had lived for his work, and his work having failed, he had no reason for living longer. Life and hope withdrew from him together." The young Amadeus has now added one more name to the long list of his progenitors who have renounced thrones. His grandfather himself—to compare small things with great, for the contingencies were of a very different order—could not have contended more honourably or more bravely against the embarrassments of an untenable position.—*Pall Mall Gazette*.

ON A RECENT DISPUTE.

TO THE EDITOR OF "PASSING EVENTS."

SIR,—As I forbore a short time back, the results of the Geneva arbitration are beginning to show themselves in our social relations. They have taken the form of a great disinclination to inflict personal injuries upon others, and a desire to appeal for the settlement of disputes to a tribunal. True, the records of our police courts still show that these sentiments have not yet permeated to the lower orders, whose favourite arbitrator continues to be a kitchen poker, and whose aversion to a tribunal is exemplified by the difficulty experienced in getting them before a magistrate, but there is hope that even they in time will become sensible to the beauties of sweetness and light.

But in the upper classes of society the higher view prevails. Let us take the case of "Clayton v. Jones" as an instance of this. Mr. Clayton and Mr. Jones are playing *vingt-et-un* in a railway carriage. Mr. Jones sees, or imagines he sees, Mr. Clayton cheating. Whereupon follows accusation and altercation. What does Mr. Clayton, an officer and gentleman, do under these circumstances? Why, of course he follows the glorious example set to him by the Government he has served, and appeals; appeals to the only available tribunal, a Captain Parker, or Parker, or Pawker, the only third party present, to know what he ought to do. Captain P., horrible to relate, does not seem to have been inculcated with a due respect for the principles enunciated at Geneva, for he wickedly replied, "Hit him in the eye!" Fortunately better feelings prevailed in the breast of Mr. Clayton, and he smothered his wrath and appealed—firstly, to Mr. Jones himself; secondly, to the Raleigh Club; and, thirdly, to the laws of his country. Quote, according to Geneva, and with equally satisfactory results.

Had Messrs. Jones and Clayton been Americans, they would have sprung upon each other, and, to use the expressive locution prevailing across the Atlantic, have "chawed each other up;" had they been Spaniards or Italians, they would have knived each other on the spot; had they been Frenchmen, they would have fought a duel; but they are Englishmen, admirers of the great and glorious Government under which we live, and as such felt bound to follow its example when engaged in a quarrel; so they indulged in hard words and arbitration, in fact at which even the judge who tried the case decorously marvelled; for which, however, the press and the public both owe them thanks, the former because a trial occupies more space in type than a duel or a riot, and affords an equally good subject for a "leader;" and the second because of the example set—an example, however, not likely to be followed under such circumstances by

YOUR ECCENTRIC CORRESPONDENT.

THE IRON RING.

It is now fifteen years since I was invited by my friend Gaston to a voyage in his yacht, along the shores of France, Spain, and thence across the Mediterranean coast. The only other guest was a certain Lieutenant Hardiman, late of the Royal navy. He was a remarkably handsome and fine-looking man, of perhaps six-and-twenty, and, as it struck me, of rather an arrogant and self-willed nature. Though only a guest, he generally managed to have things his own way on board; but, being a witty and agreeable companion, we all got along pleasantly enough together. I remember that, as we passed the Spanish coast, he remarked to us that his maternal ancestors were of that country—his great-grandfather, a certain Don José de Yearregua, having, for some reason unknown, settled in England, a little more than a century previous.

"He was a commander in the royal Spanish navy," he said, "and I think it must be to him that we owe our sailor propensities. In fact," he added, laughing, "there is a vague whisper in the family that my respected great-grandfather was something more than a legitimate commander—one of those wild and adventurous spirits who now and then venture a little on their own hook, as the saying is. I dare say that in these Puritanical days he would be called a pirate. We have his portrait at home, as a young man; and my own portrait, hanging near, is not more like me. Indeed, I often have a fancy that I must be Don José de Yearregua *redivivus*. Some people believe in these transmigrations of spirit, you know."

It so said all this lazily, as we sat on deck, one fine evening, smoking our cigars. Yet I noticed that, from this day, as we continued our way along the south Spanish coast, that he was given to occasional dreamy and thoughtful moods, as he absently surveyed the scenery around. Once, when I alluded to this, he remarked that, singular as it was, he having never before been in the Mediterranean, the scenery, the various places on the coast, &c., appeared to him strangely familiar, as though he had seen them in a dream. I began to consider Lieutenant Hardiman as somewhat fanciful or visionary.

Hitherto the weather had been favourable, and our voyage remarkably easy and pleasant. But when midway the French coast, a sudden storm overtook and compelled us to put into the nearest port, though not before we had sustained such injuries as would detain us several days in repairing.

Aigues Mortes! Has my reader ever heard of that quaint, obscure, nearly forgotten, though once important, fortress on the French Mediterranean shore? Built, ages ago, to repel the incursions of the Moors, the walls, of solid stone masonry, still stand; but not where they were erected, rising directly out of the waves. The waters gradually, in the course of centuries, receding, first left the fort in the midst of a malodorous marsh, where the garrisons died off as if stricken with plague, until the place had to be abandoned. Now, the still further sinking of the sea has drained this marsh, and left the old fortress high and dry on the shore. The top of the walls towards the sea has crumbled; and you may see great square stones, which it would take twenty or thirty men to move, lying strewn at quite a distance from their original position, washed down by the tides. High up on the walls are huge iron rings, to which, in former times, vessels were moored, now far out of reach. A curious and interesting place is Aigues Mortes.

Our quarters were at the only hotel of the place, and whenever the weather admitted, I took advantage of it to stroll about the place, examining the antiquities.

Gaston alone was generally with me; for, after our first stroll, Hardiman, who claimed to be no antiquarian tastes, had deserted us, and sought amusement in his own way. What this way was we were not long in discovering.

Midway between the little town and the old deserted fort, a distance of perhaps half a mile, stood a pretty chateau, close to the water, to which its terraced garden almost reached. A flight of stone steps gave ingress from the narrow beach to the garden-gate; and from this to the house extended a long and thickly shaded vine trellis—a delightfully cool and inviting-looking vista in those sultry Summer days. Gaston and I, passing it a few days after our arrival, were rather surprised at beholding Lieutenant Hardiman leisurely loitering through the green arcade, in company with a grave, dignified old gentleman and a beautiful girl of about eighteen. He explained to us, when we met him at supper, that the gentleman was Monsieur de Lavallette, and the young lady, Mademoiselle Desirée, his only daughter, and the most charming girl he had ever seen—not so much for her personal attractions, he added, as for her vivacious and impassioned nature.

It became soon apparent that Hardiman's was no mere flirtation *pour passer le temps* of our sojourn in this dull little place. He was really attached to this lovely French girl, and confided to us his intentions of asking her hand of her father. That she reciprocated his love, he said, he had reason to be sure of; in fact, she had confessed it.

This avowal Hardiman made to us one evening as he left us for paying his now usual daily visit to the chateau. From this he returned, in less than an hour, excited, amazed, and somewhat indignant. In conversation with Monsieur de Lavallette, on the subject of the proposed union with his daughter, he had undertaken, as in duty bound, to give him some account of himself and his family; and, in so doing, had casually alluded to his Spanish descent, and mentioned the name of the family, De Yearregua. To his surprise, Monsieur de Lavallette had immediately flushed up, and asked a few hurried but earnest questions as to the place of his ancestors' residence in Spain,

their pursuits, &c. Then the old man had arisen, and paced the room nervously, finally stopping before his guest.

"Monsieur," he said, gravely, "I regret exceedingly that this should be, to a guest beneath my roof; but it is not to be avoided. Circumstances, which I cannot explain, render it impossible that I—that you—that, in short, I should again listen to the proposal you have just now made for my daughter's hand, or, indeed, that you should again seek her society beneath this roof. Pardon me, monsieur, but I speak plainly, and so it must be."

Inquiry, remonstrance, pleading, had no effect upon the determined old man. He repeated only:

"I have my own good reasons for it, monsieur. Let it rest. So it must be."

And the disappointed and angry suitor was compelled to retire unsatisfied.

"But in leaving," he said, "I met Desirée in the garden, and hurriedly told her what had passed. She was as much bewildered as myself, and promised to meet me privately this evening, if possible, and talk it over."

From this meeting he returned at midnight, more excited and indignant than before. Monsieur de Lavallette had refused his daughter an explanation of what Hardiman called his "whim," but had, in the most positive manner, forbidden her any communication with the Englishman. He "had his reasons," he had said to her, as previously to her lover, "and this must suffice. He would sooner see his daughter in her grave than the wife of a—of, in brief, Monsieur Hardiman."

"And what will you do?" questioned Gaston; "give her up?"

"What! for the whim of an obstinate old fool like that? Most assuredly not!"

We were by this time prepared to resume our voyage; but, owing to the persuasions of Hardiman, the day of our departure was deferred. Meantime, I knew little of Hardiman's *affaire d'amour*, except that his meetings with Mademoiselle de Lavallette had been discovered by her father, and she, consequently strictly watched and guarded by an old duenna of an aunt, out of whose presence she was seldom allowed. By means of her maid, however, and a man-servant to whom this girl was betrothed, the lovers managed to hear from each other, and to make their own private arrangements for the future.

The few days passed. We were to set sail on the following morning at day-dawn, and all arrangements were accordingly made.

It was about nine o'clock on this night, when Gaston and Hardiman, after a long private conversation with each other in the cabin, came up to me, as I sat smoking on deck.

"Preston," said the ex-lieutenant, laying his hand on my shoulder, "I come to ask a favour of you. I want your assistance to-night."

A few words explained. Monsieur de Lavallette having discovered the private correspondence between himself and mademoiselle, the latter was to be removed, the day following, to a convent near Paris. Both to save her from this and secure her for his own, Hardiman had arranged with her to join him at midnight on the beach, where a boat in waiting would convey them to the yacht, and, long before her absence could be discovered, she would be beyond the reach of pursuit. We were then to land them at the nearest convenient Italian port, where the happy pair would pursue their own way, we going ours.

It was just ten o'clock when our little boat left the yacht, and made for the shore. In it were Hardiman and I, with the two sailors who rowed. To avoid being seen and exciting suspicion in any quarter, we were to land a little below the old fort, whose wall would screen us from view of the château; and Hardiman who was there to land, alone, and make his way through the low olive thickets bordering the beach up to the château, in the garden of which mademoiselle would be awaiting him. I, meantime, was to remain in the boat, guarding it and keeping things ready for his return.

"Midnight," said he. "The striking of the turret-clock of the château was the signal fixed upon for our meeting. It will take, perhaps, half an hour to reach the boat from the château, through these olive thickets. Expect us at half-past twelve, perhaps sooner."

He sprang briskly ashore, and made his way straight along the beach as far as the fort, where an angle of the ruined wall hid him from our sight. The tide was high—nearly up to the walls at one point—and rapidly rising. I thought, as I lost sight of him, that he would have some difficulty in passing this point with the young lady, especially as it was strewn with heavy stones and debris from the top of the walls of the fort.

It was at this moment that, straining my eyes out into the clear starlight, I descried at a distance several figures moving, apparently to the beach. With a hasty word to the rowers, not wishing to be seen, we put out, and moved to a distance lower down the beach—still slowly moving further on as the figures advanced, until we were a good half-mile from the spot. We were evidently unnoticed, and, upon the intruders finally turning off the beach, we made our way back again—and just in time, as, on the way, we heard the turret-clock of the distant château strike twelve.

A quarter-past twelve, and I began to listen for distant footsteps. Half-past, and no sign of the expected ones. Still, a brief delay beyond the time specified was nothing extraordinary; and I waited patiently. But presently I became uneasy, and when at length I heard "One!" tolled dismally from the hollow-echoing turret I could not control

my impatience, and, leaving the boat, walked along the beach towards the fort.

As I expected, the tide had now reached its full height, and somewhat roughly dashed against the piles of stones which had rolled down the precipitous beach. Certainly, the lovers would now find difficulty in passing; and I peered forward into the distance with apprehension, but could see no sign of them.

Finally, as the minutes wore on, I became so uneasy, that I decided to go on towards the château, in search of him. With great difficulty, and not without some peril, I elambered over the insecure pile of ruins, below the wall of the fort, beyond reach of the tide; and then by moving stealthily through the olives, gained the outside of the château garden wall. All was perfectly still; and after waiting awhile, I ventured nearer, and finally approaching the gate at the head of the stone steps, peered down the gloomy trellis-walk.

At that moment a slight rustling at my side caused me to look around, and I saw a female figure, wrapped in a dark cloak close to me.

"Is it you, *mon ami*?" said the sweetest and most tender of voices, in a whisper. "How late you are! I was almost in despair, and about to return to the house."

In the starlight I recognized the fair face of Monsieur de Lavallette's daughter, as she laid her white hand softly on my shoulder, and looked back apprehensively towards the house.

"Mademoiselle, it is not the person you expect. I am his friend."

A little exclamation, quickly suppressed, manifested her surprise. She drew back a moment, but then again approached.

"Where is he? Is he coming? Or has anything occurred to detain him?" she enquired, hurriedly.

"Indeed, mademoiselle, it is of you that I would seek some information. Have you not seen him?"

"Certainly not; and I have waited here nearly two hours?"

This information alarmed me. What could have happened to detain Hardiman from the meeting to which he had set forth in such eager haste? I had just passed over the space which he must have followed, and yet had seen no trace of him by the way. Neither had the young lady seen him, which she must have done, had he arrived.

As the case now stood, I could only return and search for the missing man. So, leaving her in a nervous state of alarm and anxiety, I turned about and retraced my steps, carefully glancing on every side as I proceeded, and often stopping to listen for some sound—but in vain.

I made my way again over the mass of ruins, back to the boat, with a hope that I might find Hardiman there, or have some news of him. But no! he had not appeared, and I was utterly at a loss what next to do! After waiting another hour, I directed the men to moor the boat, and join me in another search along the beach.

The tide was now going out, but day-dawn was beginning to appear, and I knew that Gaston must have long been anxiously expecting us. Therefore, when our second search on the beach and among the ruins proved fruitless, we at once rowed back to the yacht, and I told him the story of Hardiman's mysterious disappearance.

"He has been assassinated," was Gaston's immediate conclusion, "and the body concealed somewhere amid those ruins. He was known to have always plenty of money about him and possibly this midnight expedition was known. The servants may have been tempted by cupidity, and betrayed him."

We lost no time in again putting back to shore. Landing at the spot where Hardiman had stepped ashore, we followed the route he had taken, as far as the fort; and then around the angle of the old wall, which had concealed him from my sight. The tide was now so low, that we could walk on a narrow strip of beach, where there were fewer stones than directly under the walls of the fort. But here, in many places, the projections of rock had caused deep pools in place of the gradually sloping beach.

Passing around these, we went a short distance further, when an exclamation from one of the sailors startled us. He pointed to a spot a little ahead, where, amid a tangled mass of sea-weed, we saw Hardiman's well-known broad-brimmed Leghorn hat.

"He must have been drowned, poor fellow!" said Gaston, in a tone of nervous anxiety. "Let us search well among the rocks."

The daylight was now broad and clear, though the sun had not yet risen, and we could see well enough to investigate every nook and pool amid the rocks. Presently there came a cry of horror from Gaston, and I was instantly by his side. There lay, upon its side, in a painfully distorted position, just below the level of the receding tide, the body of Hardiman! Stooping to receive it, as the sailors standing in the water attempting to raise it, we found, to our surprise, that the corpse could not be lifted out of the water!

The right foot was, somehow, fast, and a moment's examination served to explain the cause. It was firmly and immovably caught in an iron ring attached to a large square stone at the bottom—a stone which had fallen from the wall of the fort above, and had, in the course of many years, been gradually washed down the sands to the place which it now occupied. The ring appeared to be one of those which had been used in the old times for the mooring of vessels.

We all sprang into the water, and endeavoured to extricate the limb from its confinement. But in vain our endeavours. The dead man's foot was held immovably in its iron fetter;

and, on cutting away the coverings, we found it so bruised and swollen, that it was evident he must have suffered acute pain before his death.

"You see how it was," said Gaston, greatly affected. "He sprang, from that rock there, across that little pool, to this stone, then probably just above water, without, in the darkness, observing the ring. The force of the spring drove his foot through to the instep; and it would have required an equal force to withdraw it, which, you see, he could not in this case have commanded. Then the limb swelled, and extrication became impossible. He must have fallen—indeed, he could not have preserved an upright position, with his limb so twisted! And then—"

He paused, in painful emotion. He needed not further explain it. I could picture, like himself, the long agony of that death, as the tide rose slowly, inch by inch. We looked at each other with a shudder of horror, as the same thought occurred to both.

"Why did he not call?" Gaston said.

"He might have been partly stunned, or too weak to call loud enough to be heard. Or," I added, with a sudden recollection, "we had rowed beyond hearing of his voice, in our manoeuvres to avoid those people."

"Go to the château, quick," said Gaston, to one of the sailors, "and get a file. Do not say more than that it is wanted about the boat."

But, to get our secret was impossible. The man's face, doubtless, betrayed him; for, as he came running back with the file, he was followed by several servants of the château.

A few moments after, a crowd had collected around us, and a sturdy blacksmith was vigorously filing away at the iron ring beneath the water, while many curious and earnest faces bent over, watching him.

"It happened once before, monsieur," said a workman, in a blue blouse; "but not with a fatal effect like this. As it was, a young man, landing from a boat, struck his naked foot against the ring; and, in getting it out, the flesh was torn from the bones, *parbleu!*"

"The ring should have been removed long ago," observed another, "and must be done now, else there will be more accidents of the like sort. It is unpardonable carelessness."

"What would you?" asked an elderly man, shrugging his shoulders. "It is fate. The ring is accursed. It is the ring to which the pirate-ship was moored when Aigues Mortes was sacked by the Spanish, in the time of my grandfather. I have heard him tell of it."

"Yea, yea. And to this ring, high up in the walls there, the pirate captain hung the good commandant, because he had refused to give up the fort when it was demanded, and fired on the wretches as long as he could. *Parbleu!* the ring is, as you say, accursed!"

"Is that true?" I asked, in a low voice, of one of the group.

"Certainement, monsieur. We all know it. It was told us, when children, by our fathers. And the good commandant was grandiose to our Monsieur de Lavallette here. He knows it is true."

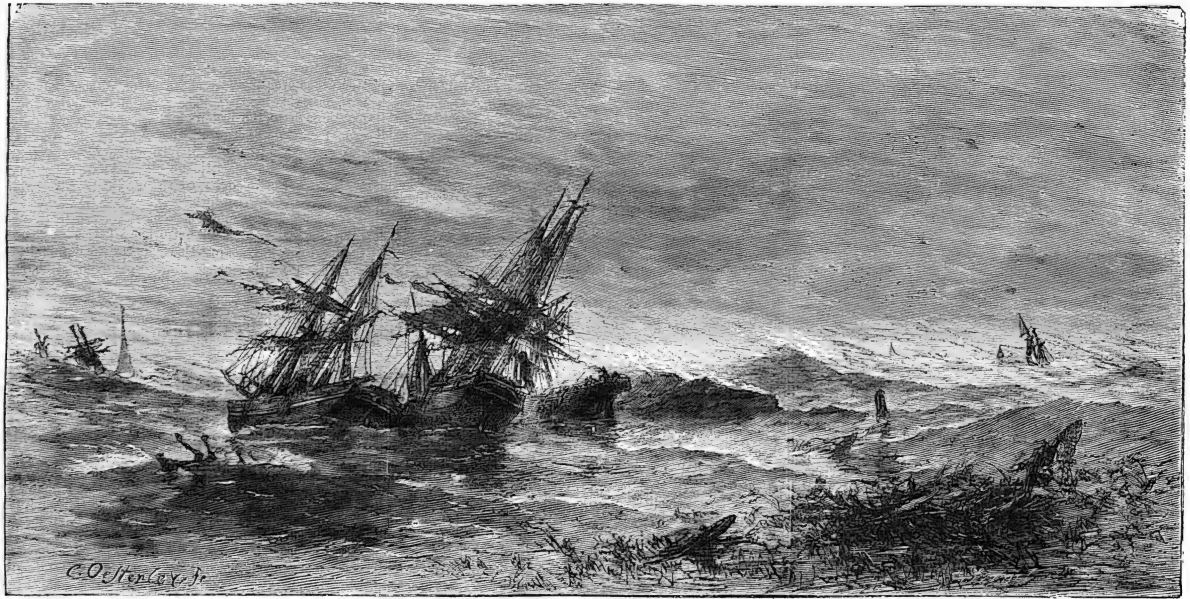
"What was the name of the Spanish captain?"

"Don José de Ycarregua, monsieur. So it is written in the records."

A RESPECTABLE French journal announces that the *Marillo*, which so brutally deserted the *Northfleet*, had arrived at Madrid! The shade of Dumas père will be shocked at this capability of the river Manzanares, as Dumas once refused a glass of water from that river, assuring the Spaniards he could not think of depriving the stream of it. The predecessor of the *Journal Officiel* once electrified Paris by announcing that three English men-of-war had anchored before Cairo; and several papers, when mentioning the death of Smith O'Brien, said that event took place at Bangor, "in the West Indies."

LOUIS THE EIGHTEENTH was a great gourmand. When, after Waterloo, a little place under Government had been asked for the Marquis de Cussy, who had been prefect of the palace under the Empire, and who had nearly ruined himself, the King refused the appointment. But hearing that he was the inventor of the method of mixing strawberries and cream with champagne, it was given to him. The King was as luxurious at his private as at his public table. His cutlets were never simply boiled, but placed between two others. When the diner opened this curious sandwich the juice of a most delicate flavour escaped. His ortolans were cooked inside partridges stuffed with truffles; hence, a painful indecision arose in the royal mind as to whether he should eat the ortolan, the partridge, or both.

THERE is reason to believe that Napoleon III. left a sort of political will, under letters patent, which was placed among the archives of the Senate. Little, however, is known about this, because the archives of the Senate were under the care of M. Rouher, and he may possibly have thought himself justified in securing the letters patent of the Emperor for the gentlemen of the 4th of September, who were, as is well known, by no means scrupulous in their dealings with much more private documents than wills. With regard to his private property, the will made in 1866, and a codicil added to it, disposing of this, are in the hands of M. Moquehard, the son of Napoleon III's late private secretary. According to French law, M. Moquehard is bound to deposit the will or wills of Napoleon III. in the hands of the President of the Civil Tribunal of the Seine as soon as the death of the testator comes to his knowledge. M. Moquehard and M. Rouher are understood to have agreed to delay the deposit of the will as long as possible. M. Moquehard excusing himself on the ground that the legal proof of the Emperor's decease has to be procured from England, to be translated into French by a duly sworn interpreter, and so on. This delay is thought necessary by the advisers of the Empress, in order to gain time to agree upon the steps to be taken to meet the posthumous dispositions of Napoleon III.



THE RECENT CYCLONE OFF THE ISLAND OF REUNION.

WE have received some details, accompanying the above drawing, of the terrible cyclone by which the French colony of Reunion, in the Indian Ocean, has been devastated. This event occurred on January 7th.

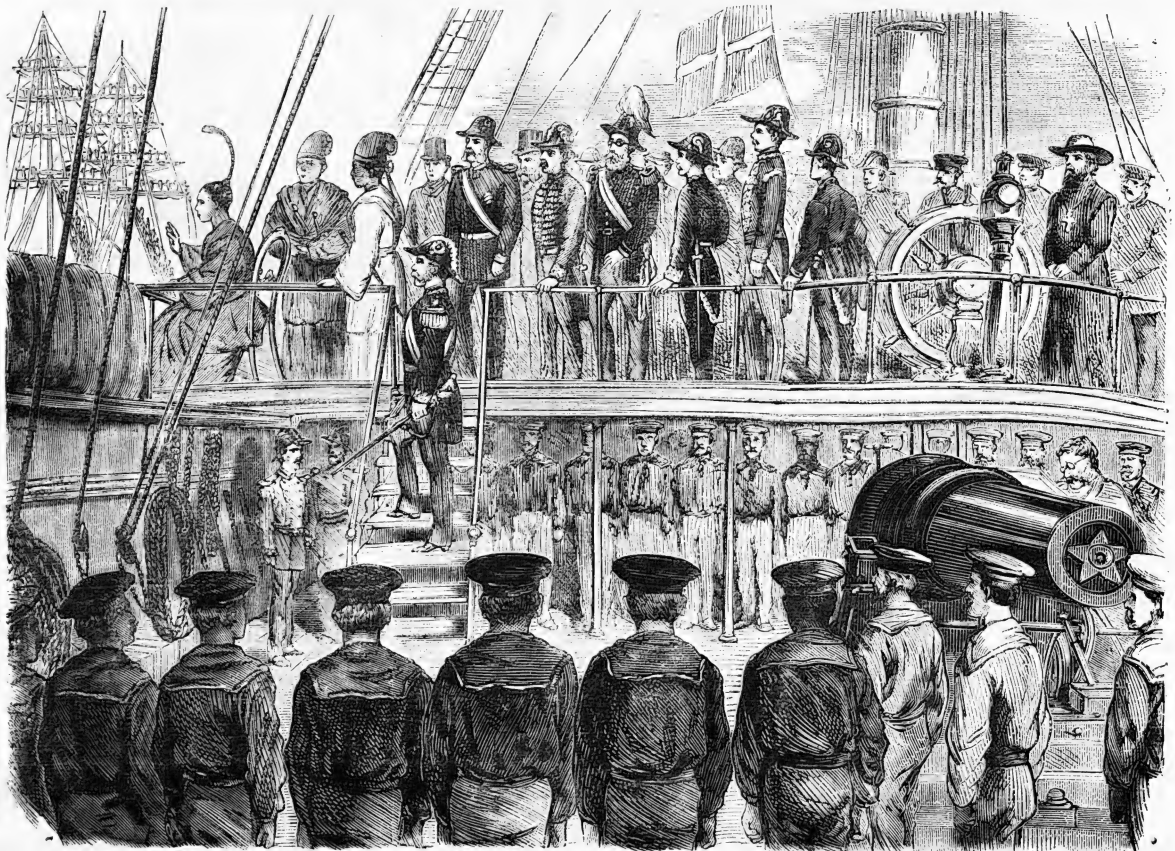
All through that day the atmosphere was like that of an oven, and the little air in motion seemed charged with fire, whilst towards evening the continued fall of the barometer and the purple sky, almost entirely veiled by ominous copper-coloured clouds, clearly foretold the advent of a tremendous tempest. At about seven o'clock in the evening it burst forth with fearful violence upon the town of St. Denis. Throughout the night it raged and roared; the deafening sounds of rain descending in torrents, houses and trees creaking and

groaning beneath the force of the wind, walls falling in and roofs flying to pieces being varied by sudden lulls of extraordinary and appalling silence.

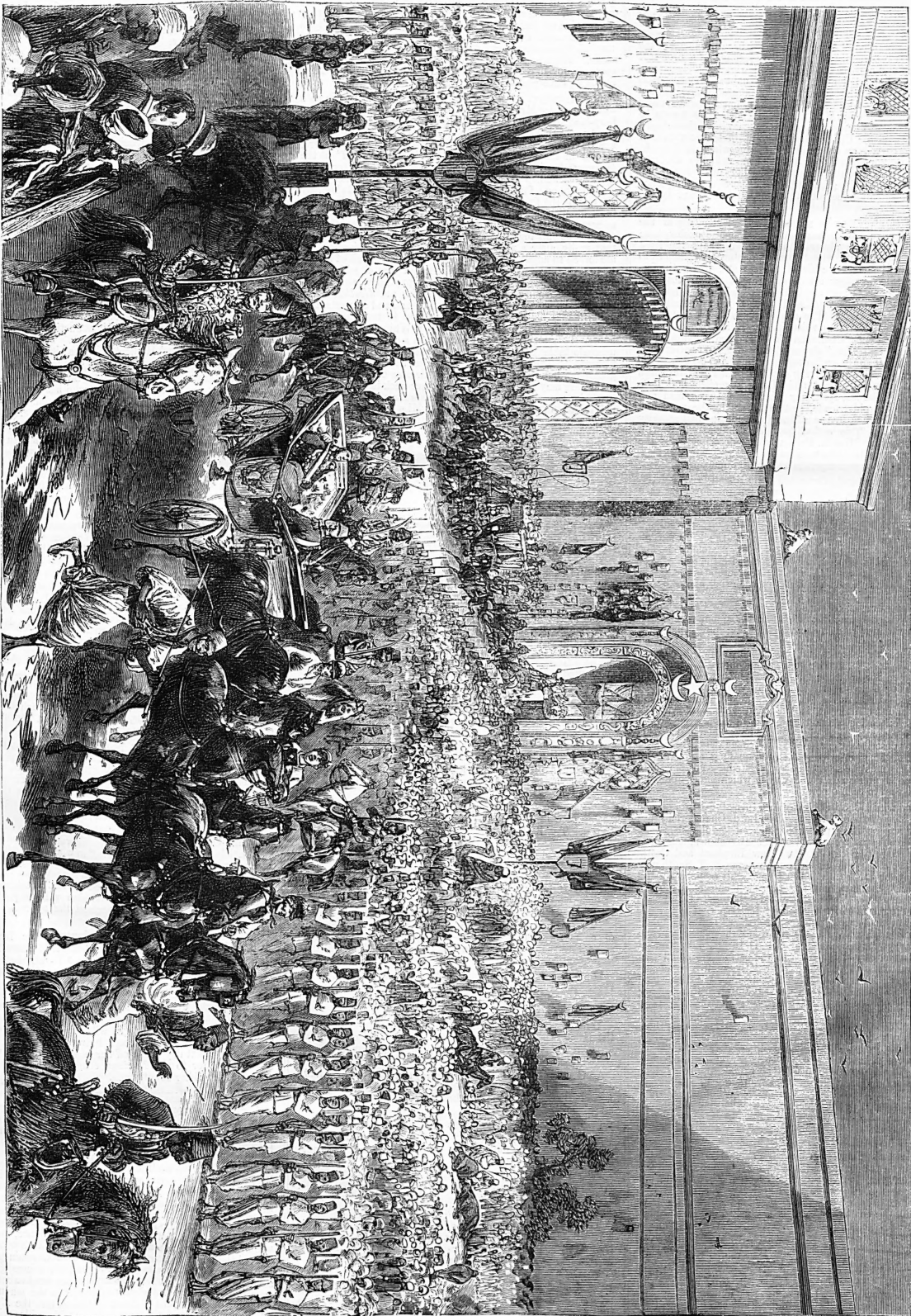
In the morning St. Denis, so fresh and smart the evening before, was a veritable panorama of ruins, resembling a town that had been bombarded and then carried by assault. Roofs carried away, shops blown open and inundated, houses overthrown, broken trees strewn the streets with their leaves and branches; such was the aspect it presented. The town-hall, the theatre, and most of the public buildings, had their roofs carried off, and almost all the churches were in a deplorable condition. The court-house was so damaged that the quarterly assizes which had opened on the 6th had to

be adjourned to the 25th of the month. The torrents of rain which fell during the cyclone added the ravages of a flood to those of a tempest. The suburbs were completely desolated, and numberless families found themselves without food or shelter. Furthermore, the miasma proceeding from the heaps of decaying vegetable matter resulting from the work of the cyclone have caused a severe epidemic.

Of the vessels that anchor in the bay before the town, several were driven on shore from the force of the tempest, as shown in our engraving. Nor has the damage been less in the interior of the island. It is estimated that fully half the sugar-cane crop has been totally destroyed. More terrible still, many women and children have been drowned by the floods.



THE MIKADO OF JAPAN REVIEWING HIS FLEET FROM THE DECK OF THE RUSSIAN WAR-STEAMER "SVETLANA."



THE VICEROY OF EGYPT LEAVING THE ELMHURST PALACE AFTER SIGNING THE MARRIAGE CONTRACT OF HIS SON.

IN COURT.

CLAYTON V. JONES.

AN extraordinary case has been tried in the Court of Queen's Bench. The bare facts are these:—Mr. C. E. F. Clayton is the son of the late Captain Clayton. He seems to have gone through the usual curriculum of young gentlemen of good position. He went to Eton at fifteen, at eighteen he joined the Guards, and five years after he voluntarily quitted his regiment. He was a member of the Guards' Club, and also of the Raleigh. "Like many gentlemen," said his counsel, "he was fond of horse-racing, betting, and playing at cards and games of chance." On a certain day he was about to go to the Warwick races, and, in company with a friend of his, Captain Pawker, he got into a carriage belonging to the Great Western Railway. A certain Mr. Jones was in this carriage. After they had started it was proposed that chicken-hazard should be played; and Mr. Clayton, it appeared, had dice and a dice-box with him. In a little while Mr. Jones found himself getting tired of this species of amusement, and proposed *piquet*. It appeared that Mr. Clayton's companion had got cards with him, and the game was played. At a certain point in that game Mr. Clayton, then dealing, found he had a ten, and very naturally doubled the stakes. On handing out the cards again he found he had dealt to himself an ace, which, of course, made up the winning hand, "a natural," and which exacts double, and sometimes treble the amount originally staked by the opponent of the dealer. But here Mr. Jones interfered, and said that he saw Mr. Clayton take out the bottom card instead of the top card in order to produce this "natural." This amounted to a frank admission of swindling. Mr. Clayton indignantly denied any such implication, and turned to his companion, Captain Pawker, and asked what he should do. Captain Pawker's advice was brief and explicit; he recommended his friend to hit Mr. Jones in the eye. This Mr. Clayton declined to do, as Mr. Jones was the heavier man of the two. He, however, called Mr. Jones a liar. Some time afterwards the Raleigh Club requested Mr. Clayton to resign, which he refused to do, whereupon his name was erased from the list of the club. The Guards' Club, a trifle more considerate, perhaps, refused to take any steps until the decision in the case was arrived at; so that the activity of the committee of that club has yet to be made known. The dismissal of the jury, who were unable to agree to a verdict, leaves matters where they stood.

MR. ODGER AND THE "FIGARO."

The action instituted by Mr. George Odger against Mr. Mortimer, the proprietor of the *Figaro*, on account of an alleged libel, was tried, on the 14th inst., in the Court of Common Pleas, before Mr. Justice Brett. Mr. Serjeant Simon, M.P., and Mr. Willis appeared for the plaintiff; the Attorney-General and Mr. Kelly for the defendant. Mr. Serjeant Simon, in opening the case, stated that Mr. Odger was a working man who had risen to be a leader among his class. Last year the Park Regent Bill was before the House of Commons, and Mr. Odger held meetings to denounce the regulations then intended, and the justice of his denunciations was now apparent by the fact that this session the Government had withdrawn the most objectionable of these regulations. On a Sunday in April Mr. Odger resided at a meeting in Hyde-park, and on that occasion he publicly burned the Bill. Upon this the *Figaro*, a paper which had been for weeks previously attacking him, published the following:—

"Odger vicious!—Know all men by these presents, that Odger the babbler rules the Government of England. We therefore are now made sport of the great man; henceforth we shall be respectful. We do not like the cobbler: we abhor his principles; we regard him as an enemy to order; we hold him to be a demagogue of the lowest and most contemptible type—half-booby and half-hungrer—a political cheap-jack, who would be a political sharper, if he had brains enough. But Odger the Cobbler rules the Government of England, and however much we may despise the cobbler, we acknowledge the *de facto* ruling power of the country. . . . Some day society will have to make short work of the Odgerites, and stamp them out as we did the cattle plague. At present Odger is supreme and triumphant, and Odgerism may work incalculable mischief before an opportunity occurs of putting an end to it with grape and bullet. How is Odger to be rewarded for his late victory? . . . If no office can be found for Odger, Mr. Gladstone might advise Her Majesty to grant the victorious cobbler a Civil List pension. Odger ought not to exult in such a Beales. He did not throw down the park railings; he only threatened civil discord."

Then followed another attack, which was as follows:—

"Office.—I have any quantity of bottled-up rage, treason, and riot. I will exchange the whole lot for any permanent appointment worth £250 per annum or upwards.—GEORGE ODGER."

Mr. George Odger, the plaintiff, was then called, but his counsel said he had nothing whatever to ask him.

The Attorney-General, however, cross-examined him. He said: I am a shoemaker now. I make boots myself at my house in High-street, Bloomsbury. I take orders from pri-

vate individuals, and, until lately, from shops. I live partly by this and partly by my writings and lectures. I lecture on such subjects as the Irish Church and Extension of the Suffrage, the English Church and Class Government. I object to middle-class and aristocratic government, and to the House of Lords, and I should prefer a Republic to a Monarchy. The last strike I was connected with was in 1866, and that was in London. I succeeded in settling the dispute. I have set up Republican clubs. I am a member of one. I went to the opening of a Republican club at Reading. It was about the end of 1871.

The Attorney-General: Did you think you had a right to have a meeting in the park? Plaintiff: Yes, I thought so from what had been said in the House of Commons. Besides, it has been our custom. I thought the park belonged to the people. The meeting was near that unfortunate board put up by Mr. Ayrton. (A laugh.) As to the second libel, I believed myself to be George Podger.

The Attorney-General: It was a column of fun, was it not? Plaintiff: You may call it fun; I think it rubbish.

The Attorney-General: Well, perhaps it is. There is one paragraph which says: "I have money, but no sense, no honour, and I want a seat in Parliament.—A REAL REFORMER."

What do you say to that? Plaintiff: It might, perhaps, apply to you. (Roars of laughter.) I said nothing about creating civil war in the metropolis. I think that what the *Figaro* said about "pawning the blanket" reflected upon my credit.

The Attorney-General said he should call no witnesses.

Mr. Serjeant Simon then summed up plaintiff's case.

The Attorney-General, in addressing the jury for the defence, submitted that the jury would be justified, considering the life which Mr. Odger had led, in saying that he had no business to bring this action, and that the defence ought to be for the defendant. (Applause.)

Mr. Justice Brett having summed up, the jury could not agree for some time, but ultimately returned a verdict for defendant.

A SERVANT OF THE PERIOD.

The particulars of the case of "Jay v. Harding," tried in the Brighton County Court, are worthy a place in the history of "servantism."—Plaintiff, a girl, said she had been engaged by defendant as a domestic servant, her wages being £8 a year. After being in defendant's service a few days, she had a few words with her mistress and was told to go. She went; but defendant declined to pay her a month's wages which she claimed, and she now brought her action. Defendant, an elderly person, said plaintiff was saucy and impudent, and was remonstrated with for general misconduct. After being in the situation a few days, she called her mistress's attention to the fact that she had omitted to stipulate that she should have the privilege of going out on one evening in each week as well as on Sunday evenings, in order that she might walk with a young man. Defendant objected to such stipulation, and plaintiff thereupon discharged herself.—His Honour, under these circumstances, found a verdict for the defendant, much to the apparent chagrin of the plaintiff.

A LIBELLIOUS PAMPHLET.

In the Court of Queen's Bench, on Saturday last, an action was tried in which Mr. Lyne, the father of another gentleman, sued Messrs. Sampson Low and Marston, the publishers, for breach of a contract to publish a pamphlet. The defence was that the pamphlet contained libellous matter. In March last Mr. Lyne, being desirous of publishing a pamphlet which he had written, entitled "Tribunals of Commerce," had entered into negotiations with the defendants, which resulted in an undertaking on their part to publish the work. Towards the end of March the attention of the defendants was drawn to an advertisement. They then perused the pamphlet carefully, and, thinking that it contained matter which was libellous, they repudiated the transaction. At the close of the case for the plaintiff, Mr. Justice Lush observed that the extracts which had been read from the pamphlet proved the defendants' plea, and he should hold that the pamphlet contained libellous matter. Mr. Milward, for the plaintiff, submitted that there was evidence of its truth, but his lordship said that was immaterial, and the defendants were bound to jeopardize themselves. The plaintiff was accordingly nonsuited.

READE V. "THE MORNING ADVERTISER."

The Governing Body of the Society of Licensed Victuallers have come to a unanimous determination to move for a new trial in this case, in which Mr. Charles Reade last week obtained £300 damages for libel in the *Morning Advertiser* contained in a criticism of one of the plaintiff's dramas.

ACTION AGAINST BANKERS.

In the Court of Common Pleas an action was brought against Messrs. Roberts, Lubbock, and Co., the bankers, to recover damages for the non-payment of two acceptances of the plaintiffs, James Law, Scholefield, and Co. (limited), woollen manufacturers, carrying on business at the Baltic Mills, Waterford, near Manchester. It was admitted by the defendants that when the bills were presented to

them they had ample funds of the plaintiffs' to meet the bills, and that payment was refused only through a mistake of a clerk of the defendants' on a very busy day. The defendants contended that they had done all in their power to rectify the mistake, and that no real injury had been done to the plaintiffs or their credit; but the plaintiffs contended that they had suffered special damage. The jury found a verdict for the plaintiffs—damages £200.

THE STORY OF A FAMILY.

A most mysterious case came under the attention of the magistrates at the Clerkenwell Police Court on Monday. George Bucknell, a glassblower, was charged with unlawfully ringing the bell of the Church of the Holy Trinity, Great Saffron-hill, St. Andrews, during Divine service, to the annoyance of the congregation therein assembled. It appeared from the evidence of Father Hussey, a Catholic priest, that on Sunday morning, "during the most silent time of Divine service," the church bell was heard ringing, and on the priest descending from the organ-loft he found defendant running away as fast as he could. Then commenced an exciting race—fast fled Bucknell, but faster pursued the priest, who at length captured the offender and gave him into the custody of the police. As, however, this was the defendant's first offence, and he was understood to be "the mainstay of his mother's family," the priest did not wish to press the charge against him, and he was accordingly discharged with a caution. It is difficult to understand why the fact of Bucknell being "the mainstay of his mother's family" should be accepted as an excuse for his ringing the church bell without authority to do so; nor is it easy to imagine what possible object he or any one else can have in thus disturbing the congregation; yet it was stated that the offence was of frequent occurrence, and we hope the notion will not gain ground that everyone whose domestic relations are of a creditable nature is justified in ringing the church bells at all times and seasons.

A SUSCEPTIBLE LOVER.

Although there is occasionally much which is objectionable to be found in the reports of the proceedings at the police-courts, yet it cannot be denied that if read in a proper spirit they frequently convey most useful information to the young. For instance, rejected lovers may learn from the case of George Sadler Lester, who at the Clerkenwell Court on Monday, was fined 30s. or sentenced in default to one month's hard labour in the House of Correction, for violently assaulting Isabella Capin, that they must not blacken the eyes of their mistresses and be told to go. Miss Capin came from her own account, had formerly "kept company" with the defendant, but lately the engagement had been broken off. On Sunday night they met at a public-house, when, in answer to an observation made to her by her former admirer, she told him "she did not want to have anything to do with him." Lester's manly heart was evidently bowed down by grief at this announcement, nor could he repress his emotion, for, following her as she left the public-house, "he struck her a fearful blow in the eye. The effect of it was to make her face bleed, and her eye was now very much swollen and blackened. This mode of displaying his wounded feelings was, of course, objectionable, and no doubt Lester deserved the punishment awarded to him; but young ladies who reject lovers may also learn a lesson from the case—namely, not to provoke the discarded ones by unseemly levity. Lester did not deny the charge; he had, according to his own admission, with Miss Capin's "black in the eye, but he urged in extenuation that she had annoyed him by pinning a valentine on an old man's back, and it was not until she abused him on remonstrating with her for this want of veneration on her part that he struck her in the heat of the moment. If Lester's story is correct, Miss Capin's behaviour was, to say the least, imprudent. To see one who is supposed to be broken-hearted pinning valentines on old men's backs must be perfectly maddening to a susceptible nature.

THE "MURILLO."

Wednesday was appointed to hear an application before Sir R. Phillimore, the Judge of the Court of Admiralty sitting in Chambers. Mr. R. Webster appeared for Mr. M'Andrew, who had been sued, and suggested that the case should be heard in court, as Mr. Walter Phillimore was to appear on the other side.

Sir R. Phillimore thought the case had better be heard in court, and the matter stood over.

Subsequently the motion was heard in court, when Mr. W. Phillimore appeared on the part of the owners of the cargo in the *Northfleet* to administer interrogatories to Mr. M'Andrew as to the ownership of the *Murillo*. Mr. M'Andrew had appeared to the citation in person, and he had appeared as counsel "improperly sued." There had been no petition filed, but it appeared that interrogatories would be administered before a petition had been filed. The learned counsel said he was fortified by affidavits, and the only object was to ascertain who was the owner of the vessel before expenses were incurred. Mr. Webster objected to the interrogatories being put to Mr. M'Andrew, as it was evident that money was to get the names of other per-

sons, and he was sure the Court would not allow such "fishing" interrogatories to be administered. Then he had to submit that the petition should be filed before any interrogatories were allowed. The *Murillo* was a Spanish vessel and registered in Spain, and he should ask the Court not to allow the questions proposed.

His Lordship remarked that the object as stated was to ascertain the ownership of the vessel, and he could not see what harm could arise by allowing the questions, which were not of the sweeping character described, and allowing them before the petition was filed. The reason alleged was to save expense.

The Court granted the application for the reasons stated, and the interrogatories were to be administered.

Mr. Webster asked for leave to appeal, and the learned judge said he would consider such an application.

The order was that the interrogatories be answered.

A "COMMON" JURY.

At the Devon County Sessions at Exeter a case was heard which may perhaps be considered as strengthening Sir John Coleridge's arguments for the introduction of "special" jurors into common juries. Two men, named Collings and Thomas, were charged with stealing a copper furnace, the property of a clergyman named Cole. It was shown that the prisoners were seen near the prosecutor's wash-house, where the copper was. It was also proved that the prisoners together sold it to a marine store dealer, and that Collings gave the name of "Harris." But in court Thomas said he never knew the copper had been stolen. He went at Collings's request near the house and waited in the road, Collings telling him that he was going to buy an old copper and some wool; and he simply helped Collings to take the copper and wool to Exeter. After consulting for some time the foreman of the jury said the jury found Collings guilty, but could not make up their mind about Thomas. The Chairman: "Then you must consider it again." Another juror to the foreman: "Take and find one guilty and t'other not guilty." (Laughter.) The Foreman: "Yes, yes." The Chairman: "That will not do, gentlemen; you must consider the matter, and say, if Thomas did not steal it, whether he received it knowing it to be stolen." After again considering, the foreman said the jury thought Thomas's story to be true, and that he did not know the copper was stolen. Several of the jury: "That's proper." The Chairman: "That is 'Not guilty.'"

THE GALWAY ELECTION TRIALS.

At the trial of the Rev. B. Quinn, for intimidating voters at the Galway election, on Saturday last, in Dublin, the Lord Chief Justice occupied an hour in charging the jury, and they retired to consider their verdict at ten minutes to six o'clock. At a quarter-past nine the jury were sent for, when the learned statesman said he had no the remotest possibility of an agreement, and they were accordingly discharged.

After three hours spent over objections to jurors, the Court proceeded to the trial of Dr. Duggan, the Catholic Bishop of Clonfert, the charge against him being that he publicly threatened an "anathema" against any person who should vote otherwise than he or his clergy should direct, or for any Parliamentary candidate who would support the cause of the Pope. The Court adjourned after the statement of the first witness, who deposed that he had heard words to this effect used, and that he had been present at the choir of the chapel at Ballinacorney, and compelled to take his children from the convent school because of his evidence before Justice Keogh.

The trial of Bishop Duggan proceeded on Monday and Tuesday, on which latter day, when witnesses were called for the defence. Several persons who were present in Ballinacorney Chapel at the time when the threatening words were alleged to have been used which formed the basis of the indictment, distinctly contradicted Carter's evidence, denied that the word "anathema" was uttered, and deposed that, in reference to the election, the whole of what the bishop said was to warn the people as being only a small proportion of the population, against a selfish regard for their own interests merely.

The different counsel having addressed the Court,

The jury, after the summing-up of the learned judge, immediately acquitted Bishop Duggan. Immense enthusiasm was manifested.

INSPECTORS of agriculture in France are often appointed who quite understand a salad, but do not know a turnip from a beetroot. A story is told of one of these gentlemen who was parading a farm with the owner. Seeing a crop of rye growing next a field of barley, the sapient official asked why on earth one was so much taller than the other. "Because," replied the farmer, with a grin, "one is corn growing for two years!" "Hut that's it, it is!" exclaimed the inspector, taking out his tablet and making a note.

AN amateur journalist of Indianapolis has made a fortune by his pen. This was how it came to pass. His father-in-law died of grief after reading one of his editorials, and left him 130,000 dollars.

THE ODALESQUE.

THERE is a great difference between the full-blown, sensual beauty before us and the etherealized beings whom the illustrators of the different "Keepsakes" and "Annals" used to delight in portraying. She might certainly pass for Lord Byron's Lolah, "dusk as India and as warm," "but we should have hard work to identify her with that heroine of the "Romance of the Harem" who was in the habit of proclaiming vocally that "the heart is a free and a fetterless thing," and that even in ruin it dares to maintain its freedom. If we have any skill in physiognomy, under no circumstances is the lady before us likely to prove "as adamant, cold and unblending," and yet we cannot help concluding that she is a fair representative of her class, and that the pencil of Gustav Richter, to which the original of our engraving is due, has been more faithful to nature than the pens of Miss Pardoe and her followers.

For woman in the East is not the companion, but merely the toy of man, and her mental powers are but little above those of a mere brute. In a remarkably interesting work on Egypt, by Madame Olympe Audouard, some very curious information was given respecting the harem-life of that country. She paints the post-immortalized odalesque as a lazy, greedy, jealous, coarse-minded creature, whose sole idea of enjoyment consists in eating, or rather stuffing, bathing, and gossiping, whose strongest impulse is the desire to get the better of some rival, and to whom love, in the higher sense of the word, is utterly unknown, although mere animal passion causes her to be ready to in-



AN ODALESQUE.—FROM THE PAINTING BY PROFESSOR GUSTAV RICHTER.

dulge in any intrigue chance may throw in her way. And other writers have clearly shown, that so far from the sale by Circassian parents of their beautiful daughters being considered a hardship by these latter, they would a thousand times rather be handed over to some decrepid old Turk, with an abundance of piastres, than mate with the fairest youth of their native mountains.

No, the odalesque here shown in no way resembles the ideals of our poets. The large, full, sleepy eye, with its depths of unfathomed desire; the ripe lips swollen with the fulness of passion; the artificially-arched eyebrows, the dark complexion, and the voluptuous outline of the whole face, are very far indeed from the classic regularity of features ascribed by these gentlemen to the inmates of the harem. The dress, too, rich in its glimmer and sheen, and with its barbaric ornaments of gold coins in strings and bands, reveals no less the lower type of womanhood.

The public may be interested in a piece of news which comes from the West Coast of Africa, and is to the effect that the dispute between Oko Jumbo and Ja Ja has been settled. We confess with sorrow that often as we have heard of these gentlemen we have never been able to make out clearly the merits of the quarrel between them. All the world is of course familiar with the name and character of Munbo Jumbo, and Oko is, we believe, his brother or his son-and-heir. Of the antecedents of the other party we cannot give any authentic information. His name is an imposing one, but it does not occur in that invaluable repertory *Men of the Time*.

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